

City of Issaquah

Parks and Recreation Department



Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan December 2009

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Parks, Recreation, Trails, and
Open Space Element

Introduction

Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Element

As a part of the natural fabric of the community, parks and open spaces are a source of pride and identity. Parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces contribute to the physical and mental well-being of the community. They provide natural beauty, environmental protection, recreational opportunities and a balanced urban landscape.

The Parks Element provides an inventory of park and recreational facilities throughout the City and establishes policy direction for the continued provision of adequate park and recreation facilities to serve the community's need. This Element is to be used in conjunction with the *Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan (see Volume #2)* which addresses parks, open space and recreational facility capital improvement needs in order to secure grant funding for park improvements and/or land acquisition.



Now a mandatory element under the GMA, (see RCW 36.70A.070(8)), the Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Element addresses GMA goals of open space retention and development of recreational opportunities; conservation of fish and wildlife habitat; increased public access to water; and development of parks. The Element provides the GMA required 10 year demand estimates; an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities.

2. Vision and Values

Issaquah's parks, recreation, trails and open space vision is to continue to provide high quality, safe and accessible recreational facilities.

2.1 Vision

Issaquah's parks, recreation, trails and open space vision is to continue to provide high quality, safe and accessible recreational facilities; link areas through greenbelt or greenway connections; and preserve the community's natural resources, such as the creeks and forested hillsides. Each component of Issaquah's park, open space and recreation system is envisioned to perform a variety of functions:

- a. Parks provide places for active recreation, relaxation and serve as community gathering places;
- b. Open spaces, forested hillsides and environmentally sensitive areas provide visual relief and protect the community's ecological resources. The City will serve as the stewards of these resources;
- c. Trails, riparian corridors and greenways/greenbelts link areas of open space and wildlife habitat, and provide connections between residential areas and other parts of the City;

- d. Landscaping and street trees provide linear open space along the City's streets;
- e. Provide recreational programming and classes for sports and activities; and
- f. Provide building maintenance of the City's owned and managed public buildings and structures.

Generally, Issaquah's parks goal, policies and objectives are to ensure "no net park loss" with increased population and to provide more neighborhood parks and plazas to be incorporated into new development projects to meet future demand for play areas, tot lots and outdoor gathering places within walking distance of the neighborhoods they serve. The City desires to provide a beautiful city, well kept and maintained, for its citizens and visitors, and provide a variety of passive to active recreational opportunities within its natural open space and parks.

2.2 Values

Issaquah places a high value on its park and recreation system to meet City residents' desires through development of parks and preservation of natural open spaces. With over 1,566 acres of open space and recreational land located within the City limits, Issaquah has the second highest per capita park acreage in King County (*based on the 2008 King County Benchmarks Report*). Issaquah's parks and open

spaces themselves are highly valued for how much they add to the City's "quality of life." The City's parks and open space areas provide a variety of functions and services, such as serving as gathering places for the community; places of recreation; preservation of ecological functions and wildlife habitat through protection of natural open space; and places of tranquility.

3. Growth Management Act Requirements

The City of Issaquah determined long ago that parks are an integral part of the community and essential to the quality of life for residents. The City included a Parks Element in the Comprehensive Plan before it was required by the Growth Management Act (GMA).

4. Existing Conditions

Issaquah's greater recreation service area encompasses an area of more than 75 square miles, which by and large follows the Issaquah School District boundaries, although the City itself covers approximately 11 square miles. ([Figure 11. Park Service Area Map](#)).

Since the Comprehensive Plan Parks Element and the *Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan* (see Volume #2) was approved in 2004, City residents passed the Parks and Open Space Bond in 2006 which allocated \$6.25 million for open space acquisitions and park development.

<u>Park Bond Funding Allocations</u>		
\$3,536,000	Open Space Acquisitions	Completed
\$1,124,000	Sports Field Improvements	In-progress
\$467,000	Neighborhood Park – Talus Development	Completed
\$986,000	Phase 1 – Development of Cybil-Madeline Park (Issaquah Creek confluence park area)	Master Site Plan – initiate fall 2009
\$67,000	Playground Improvements at Veterans' Memorial Field	Completed
\$70,000	Cost of Issuing/Selling Bonds	Completed
\$6,250,000		Total

The Park Bond funds were matched by various local and state grants for a total of \$3,623,401.00 from:

- ♦ King County Conservation Futures Tax Levy (CFT);
- ♦ King Conservation District (KCD);
- ♦ King County Youth Sports Facilities Grant (YSFG); and,
- ♦ Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Protection.



Moreover, since 2004, the City added fourteen new park and open space properties including the development of seven new parks. The City also acquired open space properties that increased the size of existing open space areas. A more detailed description of the parks and open space areas is provided in the Park Inventory Tables.

Park	Acreage
Central Park	50.0 acres
Black Nugget Park	3.0 acres
Grand View Park	8.5 acres
Timberlake Park	24.0 acres
Meerwood Park	1.75 acres
Lewis Creek Natural Area	7.5 acres
Sammamish Cove Park	19.75 acres
Harvey Manning Park at Talus	10 acres
Squak Valley Park	12.5 acres
Ingi Johnson Park	7.75 acres
Berntsen Park	2.0 acres
Park Hill Open Space	13.25 acres
Tollé Anderson Park	4.0 acres
Corra Park	2.5 acres

The City's park, open space and recreation facilities are divided into the following categories: Community Parks/Sports Complex; Community Recreational Facilities, Neighborhood Parks, Parkways and Streetscapes, Natural Open Space, Recreational Trails, and Undeveloped Park Parcels.

Tables PK-1 through PK-5 provide an inventory of current City owned park properties and describes the recreational facilities and opportunities at each of the park sites ([see Figure 13, Parks and Recreation Plan and Inventory Map](#), for locations of all City park facilities). The City's Level of Service (LOS) is reflected in a dollar amount only. To come up with a list of necessary Parks Improvements, the National Level of Service Chart was used (see Volume #2) as background material, then information from the public survey and Parks Board was analyzed to meld with the National standard to meet local needs.

5. Future Park Needs

The City of Issaquah's population is anticipated to increase over the next twenty years. Potential future annexations to the City will also increase the need for more City park, open space and recreational facilities. This demand plus an increase in the need for facilities in areas and cities surrounding Issaquah is expected as well. A map showing the existing and future park and recreation needs is shown in the [Parks and Recreation Plan and Inventory Map \(Figure 13\)](#).

5.1 Future Year Demand and Needs

Future year demand and needs are addressed in the Capital Facilities Element of the Issaquah Comprehensive Plan, Tables CF-9 through CF-14. These tables summarize expected long term demand, available resources, and anticipated investments based on the adopted Level of Service (LOS) for parks, recreation, and open space. The tables are amended each year.

Additional analysis of future demand and needs to the year 2025 can be found in the *Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan (see Volume #2)*. With the 2008-09 downturn in the nation's economy, the importance of the provision of adequate parks and recreational opportunities has become ever more important. As a result of the worsening economy more people are inclined to vacation at home, a "staycation." Residents are using the local parks and recreational facilities to meet their vacation needs. The short and long term goals include a variety of recreational facilities from the development of additional community and neighborhood parks; provision of a new aquatic facility, and continued preservation of natural open space lands to protect wildlife habitat.

5.2 Intergovernmental Cooperation

A number of opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation on parks, recreation and open space exist for the City of Issaquah. Several facilities owned and operated by the Issaquah School District and/or neighboring jurisdictions are either within the City Limits or are within close proximity to Issaquah. These facilities are listed to identify potential partnerships for further evaluation. These facilities are not included in determining concurrency with any adopted level of service standards (LOS).

5.3 Issaquah School District (within Issaquah)

The City of Issaquah has an established Interlocal Agreement with the Issaquah School District, which allows the City to provide recreational programs and services at the following District facilities:

5.3.1 Issaquah High School (700 Second Ave. SE): Remodeling of Issaquah High School began in summer 2009 and the remodel is expected to be completed in 2011. With the remodel, the athletic facilities are being reconfigured. It is anticipated that the new school facilities will include the existing synthetic turf field and ¼ mile track; baseball and softball fields; tennis courts; and, indoor gyms with basketball courts and weight room facilities.

5.3.2 Tiger Mountain Community High School (355 SE Evans Lane): Tiger Mountain Community High School provides a covered courtyard and play area in addition to sharing the above listed facilities at Issaquah High School.

5.3.3 Issaquah Middle School (400 First Ave. SE): This school is located just south of the Issaquah Community Center. Athletic facilities include two indoor gyms with basketball courts, gymnastic equipment, and a weight room; six outdoor half court basketball courts; and an outdoor shared-use grass sports field with a ¼ mile track.

5.3.4 Clark Elementary School (500 Second Ave. SE): This school is located to the north of Issaquah High School. The site has an indoor multi-purpose room; a covered outdoor play area; a children's playground with equipment; an outdoor play field that includes a softball field and an all-weather sand field.

5.3.5 Issaquah Valley Elementary (555 NW Holly St.): This school is located adjacent and to the west of the Issaquah School District Administrative offices. The site includes an indoor multi-purpose room, a covered play area; a children's playground with equipment, an outdoor shared-use grass field (includes a softball/little league field with bleachers and two playgrounds with equipment). Two shared-use sports fields (softball/little league baseball/soccer) are located between the school and school district offices.

5.3.6 Grand Ridge Elementary (1739 NE Park Drive): The school is located in the Issaquah Highlands neighborhood, adjacent to Central Park, and provides a multi-purpose indoor gym with basketball courts and an outdoor sand field that is used primarily for soccer.

5.4 Issaquah School District (outside Issaquah)

Additional Issaquah School District properties are located outside Issaquah and offer opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation in the provision of recreational programming and services. (Detailed descriptions are included in the *Issaquah Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan in Volume #2* of the Issaquah Comprehensive Plan).

5.5 Neighboring Cities

Neighboring cities offer potential opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation for the provision of shared recreational programming. (Detailed descriptions are included in the *Issaquah Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan in Volume #2* of the Issaquah Comprehensive Plan).

5.6 King County

King County also offers potential opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation for the provision of walking, hiking, mountain biking and equestrian opportunities within Grand Ridge and Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Parks, and at Taylor Mountain County Forest. The City and County, along with the state agencies have partnered in providing low-impact recreational opportunities within the “Issaquah Alps” (Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Taylor Mountains and Grand Ridge). (Detailed descriptions of these areas and recreational opportunities are included in the *Issaquah Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan in Volume #2* of the Issaquah Comprehensive Plan).







5.7 Washington State

Washington State managed lands offer potential opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation and for the provision of limited recreational programming at Lake Sammamish State Park and hiking/walking, mountain biking and equestrian opportunities at Squak Mountain State Park and Tiger Mountain State Forest. For example, the City of Issaquah has partnered with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to ensure a consistent management approach of public lands located within the "Issaquah Alps" (Cougar, Squak, Tiger, and Taylor Mountains and Grand Ridge). (Detailed descriptions of the state parks and state forest are included in the Issaquah *Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan Volume #2* of the Comprehensive Plan).



City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory

PK 1 - Community Parks and Community Recreational Facilities

PARK	LOCATION	ACREAGE	FACILITIES
Tibbetts Valley Park 	965 - 12 th Ave. NW	34 acres	A thirty acre park located at the intersection of the 12 th Avenue and Newport Way – northwest corner. The park contains five sports fields (three softball/little league fields and two baseball fields), basketball court, four tennis courts, children's play equipment, picnic shelter, six picnic tables, concession stand and restroom, interconnecting trails, Tibbetts Creek, wetlands, and parking lots.
Central Park 	1907 Park Dr. NE	50 acres	Central Park includes three park pads which offer various active recreational facilities from a children's playground to athletic sports fields. Pad #1: Baseball/softball fields, children's playground, picnic shelter, restroom, open grass field, and parking. Pad #2: Two little league baseball fields, two tennis courts, restroom and parking. Pad #3: Synthetic turf multiple use athletic field and parking.
Issaquah Community Center (ICC) 	301 Rainier Blvd. S	14.5 acres	The Issaquah Community Center (ICC) includes: an indoor recreational programming facility with a multipurpose area that accommodates a wide range of activities from basketball to trade shows; youth center; weight room area; two multiple use rooms; park offices; a community green that provides a play field and a venue for outdoor concerts; and an outdoor skate park. The ICC is available for rental use.
Julius Boehm Pool 	50 SE Clark St.	ICC acreage	The Julius Boehm Pool is an indoor pool facility that provides lap swimming, swim lessons, swim classes, and swim teams. The pool facility provides space for party rentals.



City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory

PK 1 - Community Parks and Community Recreational Facilities

<p style="text-align: center;">Tibbetts Creek Manor</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">750 - 17th Ave. NW</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3 acres</p>	<p>The manor is located on three acres adjacent to Tibbetts Valley Park. The manor consists of a conference center/social events facility with landscaped grounds, Tibbetts Creek, storage/ maintenance barn, administrative offices, and parking lots. The manor is available for rental use.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pickering Farm</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">1730 – 10th Ave. NW</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9 acres</p>	<p>The Pickering Farm is situated on nine acres of land within the Pickering Place Development. The farm consists of the Pickering Barn (a facility available for rental), a community teaching garden, a parking lot, a storage facility, undeveloped park space, wetlands/riparian open space, Issaquah Creek, and the Pickering Trail.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Memorial Park Center</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">105 – 2nd Ave. NE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Veterans' Memorial Field acreage</p>	<p>The Memorial Park Center is located on the east side of Veterans' Memorial Field and provides facilities for community programs including a day-program for pre-school age children.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Issaquah Valley Senior Center</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">75 NE Creekway</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">.75 acres</p>	<p>The Issaquah Valley Senior Center is located on the west side of Veterans' Memorial Field and provides facilities for community programs, services, and activities for senior citizens.</p>





City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory

PK 1 - Community Parks and Community Recreational Facilities

<p style="text-align: center;">Depot Park/Rainier Trail</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">2 E Sunset Way</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3.75 acres</p>	<p>Located in the center of Issaquah, west of Veterans' Memorial Field, Depot Park is two acres in size and contains the restored historic train depot, loading platform, landscaped grounds, a picnic area, an informal stage area, and a parking lot.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Issaquah Trails Center</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">110 SE Bush St.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ICC acreage</p>	<p>The Issaquah Trails Center is located north of the Community Center and provides a conference room for City staff.</p>





City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory

PK 2 - Neighborhood Parks

PARK	LOCATION	ACREAGE	FACILITIES
Veterans' Memorial Field 	120 E Sunset Way	4.25 acres	This four acre park is located in the heart of downtown Issaquah. The park site includes the Issaquah Valley Senior Center, Memorial Park Center, sports field, children's playground, horseshoe pits, picnic tables, half basketball court, Rainier Multiple Use Trail, and a small parking lot.
Grand View Park 	2306 NE Natalie Way	8.5 acres	On a clear day, the park has a spectacular view of Mt. Baker. A paved walkway, benches, picnic area, children's play lot, restroom, parking and a grass field are provided at this park site.
Black Nugget Park 	1953 – 24 th Ave. NE	3 acres	Black Nugget Park provides two tennis courts, one basketball court, children's play lot, picnic tables, benches and a grass field.
Squak Valley Park 	10319 Issaquah – Hobart Rd.	12.5 acres	Squak Valley Park is located at the south end of town and the 'upper bench area' of the park provides three mod-sized soccer fields, children's play lot, picnic tables, benches, restroom and parking. The 'lower bench area' is part of the Issaquah Creek riparian corridor.

City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory

PK 2 - Neighborhood Parks

<p style="text-align: center;">Harvey Manning Park at Talus</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">919 Bear Ridge Ct.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10 acres</p>	<p>Harvey Manning Park at Talus is located at the south end of the Talus Development/Neighborhood and provides a children's play lot, picnic tables, benches, walking path, restroom, grass field and a small parking lot.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Meerwood Park</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">4703 – 192nd Ave. SE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1.75 acres</p>	<p>This park provides a children's play lot, tennis court that doubles as a basketball court, picnic tables, benches, and grass field.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Gibson Park</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">West Sunset Way & Newport Way S</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3 acres</p>	<p>Gibson Park includes an open grass play area, children's play lot, picnic shelter and tables, and a meeting hall with kitchen and restroom.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Hillside Park and Cemetery</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">555 W Sunset Way & Mt. McKinley Dr. SW</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">44.75 acres</p>	<p>This forty-four acres park site contains the City cemetery, natural open space, trails and a small sports field off of Mt. McKinley Dr. SW.</p>

City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory

PK 2 - Neighborhood Parks

Timberlake Park






NW
Sammamish
Road/182nd
Ave. SE

24 acres

This park site is predominantly forested and provides a small parking area, ½ mile trail down to Lake Sammamish, picnic tables, benches, small grass field, and beach access and scenic view of the lake.





City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory

PK 3 - Natural Open Space

PARK	LOCATION	ACREAGE	FACILITIES
Tradition Plateau Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) 	SE 79 th St. – High Point	434 acres	The NRCA is located on Tiger Mountain to the east of downtown Issaquah. It contains 434 acres, which have been designated by the City and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) as a "Natural Resource Conservation Area." Total acreage of the combined WDNR and City ownership in the NCRA is approximately 4,400 acres. The NCRA offers recreational hiking trails, viewpoints of Lake Tradition and Round Lake, open space and natural wilderness habitat.
Talus Native Growth Protection Area NGPA (Cougar-Squak Mtns. Wildlife Corridor) 	SR 900/Renton-Issaquah Road SE & Mountainside Dr.	421 acres	As part of the Talus Development, 385 acres of open space land were dedicated to the City as a Native Growth Protection Area. Another 40 acres was added to the open space area when the City acquired the Issaquah 69 property. The open space area covers the area south of the West Fork of Tibbetts Creek on Cougar Mountain and the west slope of Squak Mountain (east and south of Mountainside Drive). Significant trail connections exist on the property to Squak Mountain State Park via the Bullitt Fireplace Trail and to King County Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park via the Bear Ridge Trail.
Squak Valley Park – North 	Issaquah-Hobart Rd.	11 acres	Located at the south end of the City along Issaquah-Hobart Road, the park includes approximately 11 acres of open fields along Issaquah Creek. Proposed plans for the parcel include natural restoration of the park including channel improvements for fish habitat plus a trail and wildlife viewing areas.




City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory

PK 3 - Natural Open Space

South Issaquah Creek Greenway 	SE Sycamore Creek Lane	10.25 acres	Located in the Sycamore neighborhood at the south end of town, the Greenway encompasses approximately 10.4 acres of creekside and wetland open space area. Stewardship/riparian enhancement projects have occurred on the site
Foothills at Issaquah Open Space 	Issaquah Creek/Sunrise Place	62.75 acres	The Foothills at Issaquah Open Space extends and forms a wildlife corridor from the South Issaquah Creek Greenway up to Squak Mountain State Park. The Squak Mountain Access Trail traverses the open space area and provides hiker access to the King County and State Park lands.
Ingi Johnson Park 	Front St. S	7.75 acres	Located on the main stem of Issaquah Creek at the Issaquah Fish Hatchery dam site. The park is slated for wildlife enhancement and riparian corridor restoration.
Berntsen Park 	810 – 4 th Ave. NW	2 acres	The park is located on the main stem of Issaquah Creek and is slated for wildlife enhancement and riparian corridor restoration.



City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory

PK 3 - Natural Open Space

<p style="text-align: center;">Emily Darst Park</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Main stem Issaquah Creek, north of I-90 and south of the Pickering Farm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11.75 acres</p>	<p>Located on the east bank of Issaquah Creek, the park contains twelve acres of wetlands and open space habitat areas. The park is traversed at its south end by the Pickering Multiple Use Trail, which connects to the King County East Lake Sammamish Regional Trail.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Issaquah Creek WaterWays- Open Space Areas within Neighborhoods</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Various upland/forested locations and along Issaquah Creek</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">56 acres</p>	<p>Through either property acquisitions or setting aside property to offset developmental impacts or to protect critical areas, open space and wildlife habitat lands have been conserved along the length of the creek and in upland forested areas.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sammamish Cove Park</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">NW Sammamish Rd</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19.75 acres</p>	<p>This land was purchased as open space / wildlife habitat on the shores of Lake Sammamish. Tibbetts Creek traverses the northwest portion of the site. No lake access is available from the site.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Issaquah Highlands Open Space</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Various locations – Issaquah Highlands Neighborhoods</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">270 acres</p>	<p>The Issaquah Highlands open space consists of approx. 270 acres located through-out the Issaquah Highlands Development.</p>




City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory






PK 3 - Natural Open Space

<p style="text-align: center;">Park Hill Open Space</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">SE 56th St.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13.25 acres</p>	<p>This open space area is generally a mixed coniferous-deciduous forest that provides wildlife habitat and ‘green space’ between the neighborhoods located within the Overlake area</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lewis Creek Natural Area</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Newport Way</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7.5 acres</p>	<p>This open space area is a mixed deciduous-coniferous forested area.</p>

City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory

PK 4 - Parkways and Trails

PARK	LOCATION	ACREAGE	FACILITIES
Gilman Blvd. Parkway 	Gilman Blvd.	N/A	Gilman Blvd. Parkway has extensive plantings and trees including edible fruit, picnic tables, benches, grassy open spaces and a viewing platform/bridge of Issaquah Creek.
Rainier Blvd. Parkway 	Rainier Blvd.	N/A	This parkway and multiple use trail links the Issaquah Community Center, City Hall, Veteran's Memorial Field, Issaquah Depot, Centennial Parks
Centennial Park/Rainier Trail 	Front St. N & Rainier Ave. N	3 acres	Centennial Park includes ½ acre of landscaped grounds and lawn with public art displayed.

City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory			
PK 4 - Parkways and Trails			
<p>Cornick Park</p> 	Front St. S & Newport Way	.25 acre	Cornick Park contains ¼ acre of landscaped grounds.
<p>Walen Hill Park</p> 	Newport Way & W Sunset Way	.25 acre	Walen Hill Park has an acre of open lawn, picnic area and viewpoint overlooking the city.
<p>Mine Hill Park</p> 	200 Wildwood Blvd. SW	3.5 acres	Mine Hill Park includes five acres of natural area, Issaquah Creek viewing platform and trail.
<p>Urban and Forest Trails</p>  	Multiple locations – described in parks that trails connect and/or bisect	Multiple locations	The Urban Trails Plan/Non-motorized Transportation Plan and the Issaquah Area Wildlife and Recreation Trails Plan are intended to be integrated into the planning of parks, recreation and open space. The Non-motorized Transportation Plan promotes pedestrian and bicycle trails as a key component of the transportation network throughout the city. The Trails Plan promotes forest trails throughout the open space and recreation areas of the greater Issaquah area also known as the "Issaquah Alps" (Cougar, Squak, Tiger Mountains and Grand Ridge). Coordination of both plans with the park system will enable the City to provide a pedestrian and bicycle friendly atmosphere for access to the City's parks and open spaces.

City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory

PK 5 - Undeveloped Parks

PARK	LOCATION	ACREAGE	FACILITIES
Cybil-Madeline Park 	Issaquah Creek at NW Holly St. and Rainier Blvd. N	4.5 acres	This site is located on the east bank of Issaquah Creek across from the Issaquah School District Administrative offices and adjacent to Tollē Anderson Park. Stewardship (riparian habitat enhancement) projects have occurred along the creek.
Tollē Anderson Park 	595 Rainier Blvd. N	4 acres	The park site is located at the confluence of the east fork and main stem of Issaquah Creek and is located adjacent to Cybil-Madeline Park.
Issaquah Creek Park 	Issaquah Creek at NW Third Ct.	3.5 acres	This site is located to the south and across the creek from Cybil-Madeline Park (southeast of the Issaquah School District Administrative offices), with vehicular access from Third Court NW. The site contains approximately 4.5 acres and has been the site of a riparian and in-stream habitat restoration project.
Corra Park <i>(no photo)</i>	Third and Dogwood Streets	2.5 acres	This park site was acquired as a future neighborhood park site.

The City of Issaquah and Issaquah School District have entered into an “Interlocal Agreement Regarding the Joint Use, Development and Maintenance of City and District Properties” (See Volume #2, Chapter 5, Appendix E), which is a cooperative effort for the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of school district and city recreational facilities. The City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department primarily utilizes the school facilities for recreational programs and services. For the schools located in the primary parks and recreation service area, the City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Dept. has first claim for the use of those schools.

City of Issaquah Parks and Open Space Inventory		
Schools		
SCHOOL	LOCATION	FACILITIES
Issaquah High School	700 Second Ave. SE	Issaquah High School is currently being remodeled and the athletic facilities are being reconfigured. It is anticipated that the new school facilities will include the existing synthetic turf field and ¼ mile track; baseball and softball fields; tennis courts; and, indoor gyms with basketball courts and weight room facilities.
Tiger Mountain Community High School	355 SE Evans Lane	This high school shares athletic facilities with Issaquah High School but also has an outdoor court/patio area for recreational activities.
Issaquah Middle School	400 First Ave. SE	Athletic facilities at the middle school includes two indoor gyms with basketball courts, gymnastic equipment, and a weight room; six outdoor half court basketball courts; and, an outdoor shared-use grass sports field that includes a ¼ mile track
Clark Elementary School	500 Second Ave. SE	The school includes an indoor multi-purpose room; a covered outdoor play area; a children’s playground with equipment; an outdoor play field that includes a softball field and an all-weather sand field.
Issaquah Valley Elementary School	555 NW Holly Street	The school includes an in-door multi-purpose room; a covered outdoor play area; an outdoor-shared use grass field that includes a softball/little league field with bleachers; and, two children’s playgrounds with equipment. Two shared-use sports fields (softball/little league/soccer) are located between the elementary school and the school district offices.
Grand Ridge Elementary	1739 NE Park Drive	The school provides an indoor multi-purpose gym with basketball courts and an outdoor sand field that is used primarily for soccer.

6. Goal, Objectives and Policies

Issaquah's parks, recreation, trails and open space vision is to continue to provide high quality, safe and accessible recreational facilities; link areas through greenbelt or greenway connections; and preserve the community's natural resources, such as the creeks and forested hillsides.

Goal

Foster and support the stewardship of historic, cultural and natural resources through our community, in the form of a parks, recreation and open space system, that serves the needs of the residents of the City of Issaquah and the surrounding area.

Balanced Needs

OBJECTIVE P-1: The City's adopted *Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan* shall be used to ensure that development of parks is balanced with environmental protection. The City shall promote and protect environmental quality, open space and wildlife habitat, and multi-use recreational opportunities.

Balanced Needs Policies:

P-1.1 Access and Education: Provide access to and education about Issaquah's natural environment and cultural heritage through the park system.

P-1.2 Natural Integrity and Heritage: Preserve and protect the natural integrity of the environment as well as resources and artifacts of historical and cultural significance to reinforce the City's cultural, historical and agricultural heritage within the park system.

P-1.3 Wildlife Corridors: Maintain wildlife corridors to provide adequate linkage for wildlife movement between and about wildlife habitat areas.

P-1.4 Recreation and Habitat: When providing recreational facilities, ensure that these facilities are consistent with and do not adversely affect the preservation and protection of wildlife habitat areas.



Natural Resource Management

OBJECTIVE P-2: Preserve and protect the City's natural resources through the provision of resource management strategies and programs.

Natural Resource Management Policies:

P-2.1 Natural Resources: Preserve and protect natural resources through open space and wildlife management and other environmental programs for the benefit of future generations.

P-2.2 Forest Management: Protect forest lands through sustainable forest management strategies for the benefit of future generations.

P-2.3 Native Biological Diversity: Implement management strategies, as developed in the Issaquah Natural Area Open Space Management Plan, to maintain sustainable wildlife population levels and encourage native biological diversity.



P-2.4 Stewardship: Promote stewardship projects located within and along the Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks, including their tributaries, corridors and upland natural open space areas.

P-2.5 Native Vegetation: Within the City's designated open space natural areas, including Native Growth Protection Areas, restoration, enhancement, and stewardship projects shall use vegetative species native to the State of Washington and as appropriate for the project site plant community.

P-2.6 Native and Drought Tolerant Vegetation: Within the City's parks and streetscapes, native and drought tolerant species shall be emphasized and used as appropriate for the project site.

Visual Environment

OBJECTIVE P-3: Preserve and enhance the beauty of the City of Issaquah through the parks and open spaces that make up the City's park system.

Visual Environment Policies:

P-3.1 Visual Relief and Tranquility: Bring visual relief and tranquility to mitigate the impacts of the urban environment, including noise, traffic, concrete, and congestion, through the use of maintained parkways including street trees, gardens, lawns, woods, and water through the park system.

P-3.2 Natural Beauty of Area: Promote retention and replication of the area's natural beauty and ecology (mountains, plantings, water etc.) in the park system.

P-3.3 Preserve Gilman Blvd. Landscaping: Protect Gilman Boulevard's signature landscaping, trees, plantings, grassy open spaces, trails and creek access from new development and improvements by ensuring no net loss of landscaping.

P-3.4 Scenic Visual Resources: Preserve the quality of surrounding scenic and visual resources provided by the natural open space areas, such as the "Issaquah Alps."



Future Generations

OBJECTIVE P-4: Ensure Issaquah's park system has a strong orientation toward providing parks, recreation and open space facilities, and recreational opportunities for future generations.

Future Generations Policies:

P-4.1 Planning for Future Generations: Acquire and preserve land for coming generations, and develop parks to meet both existing and future demand including multi-use recreational facilities and activities, and open space preservation.

P-4.2 Planning for Future Growth: Plan the park system using future growth estimates and expected growth patterns.

P-4.2.1 PAAs and Subareas: Consider and designate, when possible, locations for City owned parks when annexing property or preparing subarea plans.

Accessibility

OBJECTIVE P-5: Make the City of Issaquah's park system and programs easily accessible for as many recreational users as possible.

Accessibility Policies:

P-5.1 Active and Passive Park Facilities: Make both active and passive park facilities available to as many persons as possible. Where appropriate, provide multi-use active recreational opportunities at park facilities consistent with the intended use of the particular park facilities.

P-5.2 User Groups with Special Considerations: Give special consideration to people with limited financial resources, youth at risk, the elderly, the disabled and others with special needs.

Service and Management

OBJECTIVE P-6: Ensure Issaquah's park facilities are safe and well managed while providing all segments of the community with quality park and recreational facilities and services.

Service and Management Policies:



P-6.1 Services for a Variety of Persons: Provide natural open space, multiple-use parks, and recreational opportunities and services to a variety of age groups, interests, and abilities throughout the park system.

P-6.2 Park Programs: Offer a wide variety of recreational programs, services and classes to meet the community's diverse needs. The programs, services and classes should be characterized by quality, caring and efficiency.

P-6.3 Safety: Promote the opportunity for use and minimize user and neighborhood conflict, through the provision of safe and well-managed park facilities, including open space and active recreation facilities. Anticipate the security and safety concerns of users, and design parks and parks recreational programs with these concerns in mind. Strategies to alleviate potential security and safety concerns include: requesting police patrols, posting signage with regulations for behavior and appropriate times and ways to use parklands and park facilities, regular maintenance, outdoor lighting and appropriate landscaping.

P-6.4 Citizen Involvement: Utilize citizen involvement and participation in planning, developing, operating, stewarding and maintaining the City of Issaquah's park system. A variety of citizens and recreational users should be included in the review of strategies and implementation of park planning projects. City sanctioned volunteer activities are encouraged when feasible for maintenance and stewardship of the City's parks and open spaces.



P-6.5 Trails: Use the *Urban Trails Plan* and the 1992 *Issaquah Area Wildlife and Recreation Trails Plan* as background and guidelines for future planning for trails and supplemental facilities within the City's parks, recreation and open space areas. Place emphasis on connecting trails to existing local, regional, and state trail systems as shown in the [Recreational Trail and Non-Motorized Transportation Corridor Map \(Map 8-1\)](#).

P-6.6 Integrated Pest Management and Plant Health Care: Design, develop and manage park facilities utilizing plant health care and Integrated Pest Management approaches and strategies. For example, these approaches include matching appropriate plants to their respective sites, emphasize proper site preparation to ensure plant establishment, promote long term success with a minimum of artificial inputs, conserve water, reduce use of chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers and protect water quality, endangered species and public health, while also considering public safety, economic, legal and/or aesthetic requirements. Implementation for these approaches and strategies shall be included in a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) or Maintenance and Operation Manual.

P-6.7 Facility Management: Design, develop, construct, maintain and operate facilities when feasible in a resource efficient and sustainable manner, which minimizes impacts to and improves the quality of the environment, community and economy.

Acquisition and Development

OBJECTIVE P-7: Acquire land for future parks, trails and trail connections and natural open space when such lands are available and affordable, to meet present and future community and user demands and needs.

Acquisition and Development Policies:

P-7.1 Park Land Acquisition: Acquire suitable land when available, but development of park and recreational facilities must not exceed funding or the ability to maintain or to operate facilities.

P-7.2 Inventory and Identification: Inventory existing developed and undeveloped parks and determine appropriate recreational uses and facilities at these sites.

P-7.3 Minimum Facilities: Provide minimum access, such as trails, where full development is not appropriate or possible.

P-7.4 Acquisition Priority: Priority should be placed on acquiring land adjacent to existing parkland to augment the potential uses of those facilities and to improve linkages between parks.



P-7.5 Neighborhood Needs: When feasible, priority should be given to acquiring and developing sites that provide recreational facilities within neighborhoods in the City. These areas should be easily accessible, visible, and efficient to maintain and operate. Neighborhood parks are desirable within $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of each residence. Neighborhood parks typically feature about three to five acres and include children's play structures, restrooms, grass play or sports field, picnic tables and benches, and small parking area.

P-7.6 Acquisition of Wildlife Habitat Areas: When feasible, priority should be given to the identification, acquisition and preservation of natural open space areas and, wildlife corridors in order to allow wildlife (both aquatic and terrestrial) migration from place to place, and to avoid isolation of habitat areas. Acquisition sites should promote wildlife habitat connectivity.

Partnerships

OBJECTIVE P-8: Continue, or create where beneficial to the public, partnerships with local, state, federal and regional agencies. Partner with the Issaquah School District, businesses, developers, non-profit organizations, user groups and neighborhood groups in order to provide and to assist in the management and maintenance of parks, open space, recreation facilities, services and security.

Partnerships Policies:

P-8.1 Partnerships with Developers: Developers shall mitigate or offset the impacts of their new development by providing parkland and park facilities, and/or payment of impact fees in lieu of such land or facilities, through the process established by the City. Additional on-site design requirements are also appropriate for larger subdivisions and multifamily developments. In the commercial areas of the City, developers shall mitigate by providing public spaces and facilities such as plazas, courtyards, and pedestrian connections on-site through Land Use Code development requirements and/or incentives. Area wide improvement districts are also supported to address the needs for commercial area park facilities.

P-8.2 Neighborhood and Business Partnerships: Encourage partnerships with neighborhoods and existing businesses to provide land or facilities for parks including, but not limited to: cost sharing for acquisition and development, furnishing materials or equipment, or providing maintenance or security. Promote partnerships with non-profit and service organizations. These groups provide increased expertise, interest, volunteers, and/or funding for a particular facility or program provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Regional Coordination

OBJECTIVE P-9: Participate in coordination, in cooperation and in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies on a regional basis in order to provide an effective and efficient regional natural open space and park system, thus providing improved recreational opportunities, services, and facilities for people living in the greater Issaquah area. Key agencies include the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and the United States Forest Service.

Regional Coordination Policies:

P-9.1 Cooperative Planning Efforts: Participate in the cooperative regional planning efforts among agencies and jurisdictions in order to provide recreational opportunities and facilities on inter-jurisdictional public lands. The City shall also work together with these jurisdictions and organizations to identify jurisdictional roles and responsibilities in contributing to regional needs, and identify, establish, protect and steward urban and rural open space corridors of regional significance.

P-9.2 Specific Partnerships: Due to the local benefit of regional public open space lands, the City should continue its coordination and participation in the "Issaquah Alps" and Upper Snoqualmie Valley Interagency Committee, the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Trust, Issaquah Alps Trail Club, Save Lake Sammamish and other non-profit groups.



Chapter 1

Introduction/Purpose and Philosophy

At least forty percent of the Washington State's population is located within a 40-mile radius of the City of Issaquah, providing businesses with an expansive market of commerce. Rich in history, surrounded by outdoor recreation opportunities, and close to urban centers, Issaquah has become a Northwest destination for living, working, doing business, and recreation in the 21st century.

From the white picket fences of our historic downtown to the tree-filled drives through our new neighborhoods, Issaquah has retained its small hometown feeling that is one of the community's most cherished assets. Close proximity to neighboring business districts, downtown Seattle and surrounding recreational areas and amenities, makes it an ideal place for families to live. New residential developments and neighborhoods continue to provide a special place for those who desire to call Issaquah home. Fast-paced growth does create challenges in zoning, transportation, and environmental preservation, but active public participation has made the community an integral part of the planning and development process. The City's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (Parks Plan) is a tool to help Issaquah retain its quality of life.



The purpose of the Parks Plan is to provide a planning document to guide future park and recreational opportunities within our community. The plan provides a goal, objectives and policies for recreational facilities to meet our City's current and future recreational requirements. Included in this plan are descriptions of the primary and secondary park service areas and the level of service the community desires and requires. Additionally, with an adopted Parks Plan the City is eligible to submit grant applications and obtain grants from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). Even with these attributes and accomplishments, the City seeks to continue its planning efforts for the provision of park and recreational opportunities due to the increased and rapid growth that has occurred over the past ten to fifteen years, and which is anticipated to continue into the future.

Moreover, the Growth Management Act (GMA) provides planning goals that shall "guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plan and development regulations" (RCW 36.70A.020). Although the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan has not yet received the State funding necessary to make it a mandatory element under the GMA, the City has long maintained a Parks Element because parks and recreational opportunities are viewed as an integral part of the City and essential to the quality of life for its citizens. The goal, objectives and policies of the Parks Plan also coincide with GMA goals for the development of parks and recreational facilities: retention of natural open space, preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, and provision of access points to waterways. The Parks Plan Executive Summary will be incorporated as an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

1.1 City of Issaquah Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Mission Statement

The mission of the City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department is to strengthen community image and sense of place, support economic development, strengthen safety and security, promote health and wellness, foster human development, increase cultural unity, protect environmental resources, provide recreational experiences and facilitate community problem solving.

Parks, recreational facilities, programs and community events are key factors in strengthening community image and creating a sense of place. Recreation programs and facilities attract and retain businesses and residents, as well as attract tourists. Parks and Recreation provides jobs and generates income for the community and for local businesses.

Parks and recreation professionals provide safe environments for recreation activities and design programs and services specifically to reduce criminal activity.

Participation in recreation activities improves physical, social and emotional health that positively impacts community health and wellness. Parks and Recreation services foster social, intellectual, physical and emotional development.

Parks and Recreation increases cultural unity through experiences that promote cultural understanding and celebrate diversity.

By acquiring and protecting valuable resources as open space, streams, greenways, view sheds, forests and other habitat areas, natural resources are protected and habitat required for the survival of diverse species is preserved.

Parks and recreational professionals possess facilitation and leadership skills that can be applied to resolve community problems and issues.

1.2 City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Philosophy and Vision

The City of Issaquah's Comprehensive Plan – Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element provides the overall Vision for the City's parks, open space and recreational facilities. The City's Vision "is to continue to provide high quality, safe and accessible recreational facilities; link areas through green belt connection and preserve the community's natural resources, such as the creeks and forested hillsides."

Through this document, key concepts and strategies are identified for the provision of parks, open space and recreational opportunities in order to implement the City's Vision. These concepts are:

Provision of park facilities and recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages in the community, now and into the future;

Protection and preservation of the City's parks, open space areas and natural resources by providing one of the finest and most dynamic park systems in the region;

Provision of park facilities and recreational opportunities for all residents in a safe environment; and,

Protection of scenic and visual resources within and outside of the City's urban boundaries.



The City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department offers year round cultural and recreational activities at the Issaquah Community Center; swimming programs at the Julius Boehm Aquatic Center; active recreational opportunities and programs at Tibbetts Valley, Central and Veterans' Memorial Parks; neighborhood parks with children's playgrounds; and, special community facilities such as the Tibbetts Creek Manor and the Pickering Farm. These facilities are suitable for family reunions, corporate business meetings, weddings, the annual Farmer's Market, and of course, community events to celebrate Issaquah's rich heritage.

Issaquah is surrounded by about 25,500 acres of natural open space land known as the "Issaquah Alps" – Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Taylor Mountains and Grand Ridge. Within this natural open space land, there are over 150 miles of trails that range from gentle to rugged with many of the trails constructed and maintained by volunteers living in Issaquah and Seattle/Puget Sound area. Within minutes of the downtown or one of Issaquah's neighborhoods, one can access these natural open space lands for a forest adventure. Swimmers, water skiers, boaters, and picnickers can enjoy the nearby facilities at Lake Sammamish State Park.

With so much to offer in the way of cultural, historical, and natural amenities, it is important that the City and community groups actively plan and support the acquisition, development, and improvement to Issaquah's Park and Recreation facilities, programs, and natural open space areas for the benefit of current and future generations.

Chapter 2

Goal, Objectives, and Policies

The goal and objectives of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (Parks Plan) are clearly to support the variety of needs and desires, in the form of parks, recreation and open space, that foster and support the stewardship of cultural, historical, and natural resources throughout the community and surrounding area, and further define and support the City's vision and philosophy.

2.1 Acquisition

Acquisition of property within the City of Issaquah to meet the community's park and natural open space needs is dependent on property availability. Because of increased developmental pressure in and outside the City, property suitable for parks is rapidly disappearing in the Issaquah area. The Parks Plan will identify the types, sizes, and quantity of acres needed to provide and meet the cultural and recreational facilities needs of the community.

2.2 Development

Development of acquired and undeveloped park lands for recreational opportunities should be a top priority. To meet recreational demand for park facilities, the City has a critical need to acquire and develop sites for recreational and sports programs, and to provide smaller, neighborhood sites for limited recreational facilities for specific neighborhoods. These sites should be accessible, safe and visible, and efficient to maintain. While reviewing new development options, the City should also be aware of the need to renovate, repair and upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities.

2.3 Multiple-Use Recreational Opportunities

The City of Issaquah has a wide variety of developed and undeveloped park and recreation facilities and programs, which serve the needs of residents and visitors. The park system provides multiple benefits for all ages and abilities with active and passive recreation sites, indoor and outdoor facilities, and organized and spontaneous activities. The Parks Plan identifies areas, acreage, and facilities where the City may be deficient, based on national Level of Service standards, and provides recommendations for the acquisition and development of properties to meet the City's recreational needs. The Park Plan will also identify the benefits of a park system, which, besides providing active recreational opportunities, provides passive recreation, trails, wildlife preservation, environmental protection, and cultural enrichment.

2.4 Partnerships

Partnerships with the Issaquah School District, businesses, developers, non-profit organizations, and neighborhood groups, play an important role in the acquisition and development of active and passive recreational opportunities for the City of Issaquah.

The schools within the Issaquah School District offer a wide variety of fields, gymnasiums, or other amenities that are used by the Parks and Recreation Department to offer recreational programs. In some cases, City funds or outside grants may be available to renovate school facilities in order to provide additional recreational opportunities for the community. The City and Issaquah School District signed an Interlocal Agreement (see Appendix C) for the shared use of school and Parks and Recreation Department facilities. The agreement generally states that the Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department may schedule recreational programs, such as the youth basketball program, at local schools. Additionally, the Issaquah School District may use the Issaquah Community Center and Pool for school programs. The agreement is reviewed on a yearly basis.

Privately owned spaces or parks in planned communities or neighborhoods may supplement recreational opportunities but these facilities typically do not offset public recreational needs. Privately held open space, usually as a Native Growth Protection Easement or Area such as in the Montreux Sub-area, adds to the City's scenic and visual resources and quality of life and character.

Partnerships with developers can be achieved either through Development Agreements or through the development review process. Parks and recreational facilities level of service is based upon the expected build-out or population of the development (as provided in the Park Impact Fee Rate Study – Appendix A). This review process includes implementation of the Parks Impact Fees or allows for the construction of parks and park facilities, dedicated to the City that will offset the number of facilities identified in the review process. On occasion, the developer may both pay a share of the established park impact fees and construct recreational facilities. Through design of business areas, developers may provide public spaces, plazas, trails and other pedestrian connections that link with the City's trail system.

Neighborhood and business group partnerships can provide land or facilities for parks and recreation for the City. This might include cost sharing for acquisition and development, furnishing materials or equipment, or provision of maintenance and security. Some examples include the purchase of play equipment for a local park by community groups, or existing businesses might contribute trees, plantings, street furniture, or funds to maintain these elements in the business areas.

2.5 Regional and Interagency Coordination

The City recognizes its transition role between urban and rural areas due to its location between the urbanizing Eastside to the more rural areas of east King County. The City is surrounded by approximately 25,500 acres of publicly owned rural open space, commonly known as the "Issaquah Alps." The Alps are composed of King County's Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park; State Park's Squak Mountain State Park; State Dept. of Natural Resources Tiger Mountain State Forest; City of Issaquah Tradition Plateau Natural Resources Conservation Area; King County's Taylor Mountain Forest; and, King County's Grand Ridge Park. These public lands are managed as natural open space parks, and as a state forest that contains a natural resources conservation area as well as working forest lands.

These public lands are further connected to county, state and federal agency managed public lands located east of the “Issaquah Alps” to Snoqualmie Pass. Because of the similar issues that face these public land management agencies, the land managers including the City of Issaquah formed the “Issaquah Alps” and Upper Snoqualmie River Valley Interagency Committee. The committee works cooperatively to form a consistent planning effort and management approach for the inter-jurisdictional agency lands. This management includes recreational uses, stewardship, and active working forest lands.

2.6 Community Participation

Involving the citizens of Issaquah is imperative in providing a responsive, effective, and high quality park and recreation system. Citizen participation in the development of recreational programs and facilities ensures that the park system will reflect community needs and values. As the City of Issaquah continues to grow, citizen participation is encouraged in order to provide facilities and programs that meet the needs of the community.

Volunteers are another important component in community participation. Not only do they provide needed services efficiently and cost effectively, they also represent a strong commitment toward community ownership of park resources. The City’s service and sports organizations have provided countless volunteer hours toward the provision of a first-class park system.



2.7 Safety and Security

Issaquah’s park and recreation facilities should provide a sense of security, safety, and well-being. The safety and security of park and recreation areas are critical to the success of recreational programs and managing the park system. Identifying potential concerns, providing designs with these concerns in mind, and developing programs for these facilities accordingly, can help avoid or limit unwanted activities. This could be as simple as age appropriate play equipment, skate parks, or active sports fields. Signage and regulations help publicize rules and guidelines for acceptable behavior, appropriate times of use, and identifies safe ways in which to use the City’s recreational facilities.

2.8 Recreational Programs and Services

The Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of programs to the community with emphasis on providing recreational programs for all ages, special populations, scholarship programs for low-income individuals or families, seniors, disabled citizens, teens, and youth. Programs provide educational, social, and recreational opportunities that help build healthy productive lives for Issaquah residents.

The unique diversity of the City’s excellent park system, from an environmental and facility perspective, enables the Parks and Recreation Department to offer a wide range of programs. These facilities and programs are tools in providing opportunities for education, socialization, fitness, sports, and leadership development.

Special events, hosted by the City or a non-profit organization, provide a means for the community to take part in celebration together. These community activities build community identity, commitment, and understanding and a sample of some of these special events include: the Salmon Days Festival, Concerts on the Green, Sammamish Stewardship Saturday, and the Issaquah Farmer's Market.

2.9 Goal, Objectives and Policies

Even with these attributes and accomplishments, the City needs to continue its planning effort for the provision of park and recreational opportunities due to the population growth that has occurred over the past ten to fifteen years, and which is anticipated to continue well into the future. This planning effort includes a public involvement process; identifying a park and recreation service area(s); and, determination of the appropriate level of service to meet our community's recreational needs.

The main components of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan include:

Identification of primary and secondary parks and recreation service areas;

Inventory of existing recreational facilities, including developed and undeveloped facilities, within the City (primary service area) and nearby area (secondary service area);

Public involvement process;

Identification of desired level of service of recreational opportunities/assessment of park and facility needs;



Recommendations to provide the identified level of service of recreational opportunities and needs; and,

Strategies and recommendations on how to provide the projected level of service and identified recreational opportunity and facility needs including a six year Capital Improvement Plan.

The listed goal, objectives and policies are clearly to support the needs and desires of the citizens of Issaquah and to promote stewardship of the City's parks, recreation facilities and natural open space areas. The objectives further define and support the City's parks, recreation and open space mission and philosophy.

Goal

Foster and support the stewardship of historic, cultural and natural resources through our community, in the form of a parks, recreation and open space system, that serves the needs of the residents of the City of Issaquah and the surrounding area.

Balanced Needs

OBJECTIVE P-1: The City's adopted *Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan* shall be used to ensure that development of parks is balanced with environmental protection. The City shall promote and protect environmental quality, open space and wildlife habitat, and multi-use recreational opportunities.

Balanced Needs Policies:

P-1.1 Access and Education: Provide access to and education about Issaquah's natural environment and cultural heritage through the park system.

P-1.2 Natural Integrity and Heritage: Preserve and protect the natural integrity of the environment as well as resources and artifacts of historical and cultural significance to reinforce the City's cultural, historical and agricultural heritage within the park system.

P-1.3 Wildlife Corridors: Maintain wildlife corridors to provide adequate linkage for wildlife movement between and about wildlife habitat areas.

P-1.4 Recreation and Habitat: When providing recreational facilities, ensure that these facilities are consistent with and do not adversely affect the preservation and protection of wildlife habitat areas.



Natural Resource Management

OBJECTIVE P-2: Preserve and protect the City's natural resources through the provision of resource management strategies and programs.

Natural Resource Management Policies:

P-2.1 Natural Resources: Preserve and protect natural resources through open space and wildlife management and other environmental programs for the benefit of future generations.

P-2.2 Forest Management: Protect forest lands through sustainable forest management strategies for the benefit of future generations.

P-2.3 Native Biological Diversity: Implement management strategies, as developed in the Issaquah Natural Area Open Space Management Plan, to maintain sustainable wildlife population levels and encourage native biological diversity.

P-2.4 Stewardship: Promote stewardship projects located within and along the Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks, including their tributaries, corridors and upland natural open space areas.

P-2.5 Native Vegetation: Within the City's designated open space natural areas, including Native Growth Protection Areas, restoration, enhancement, and stewardship projects shall use vegetative species native to the State of Washington and as appropriate for the project site plant community.

P-2.6 Native and Drought Tolerant Vegetation: Within the City's parks and streetscapes, native and drought tolerant species shall be emphasized and used as appropriate for the project site.

Visual Environment

OBJECTIVE P-3: Preserve and enhance the beauty of the City of Issaquah through the parks and open spaces that make up the City's park system.

Visual Environment Policies:



P-3.1 Visual Relief and Tranquility: Bring visual relief and tranquility to mitigate the impacts of the urban environment, including noise, traffic, concrete, and congestion, through the use of maintained parkways including street trees, gardens, lawns, woods, and water through the park system.

P-3.2 Natural Beauty of Area: Promote retention and replication of the area's natural beauty and ecology (mountains, plantings, water etc.) in the park system.

P-3.3 Preserve Gilman Blvd. Landscaping: Protect Gilman Boulevard's signature landscaping, trees, plantings, grassy open spaces, trails and creek access from new development and improvements by ensuring no net loss of landscaping.

P-3.4 Scenic Visual Resources: Preserve the quality of surrounding scenic and visual resources provided by the natural open space areas, such as the "Issaquah Alps."

Future Generations

OBJECTIVE P-4: Ensure Issaquah's park system has a strong orientation toward providing parks, recreation and open space facilities, and recreational opportunities for future generations.

Future Generations Policies:

P-4.1 Planning for Future Generations: Acquire and preserve land for coming generations, and develop parks to meet both existing and future demand including multi-use recreational facilities and activities, and open space preservation.

P-4.2 Planning for Future Growth: Plan the park system using future growth estimates and expected growth patterns.

P-4.2.1 PAAs and Subareas: Consider and designate, when possible, locations for City owned parks when annexing property or preparing subarea plans.

Accessibility

OBJECTIVE P-5: Make the City of Issaquah's park system and programs easily accessible for as many recreational users as possible.

Accessibility Policies:

P-5.1 Active and Passive Park Facilities: Make both active and passive park facilities available to as many persons as possible. Where appropriate, provide multi-use active recreational opportunities at park facilities consistent with the intended use of the particular park facilities.

P-5.2 User Groups with Special Considerations: Give special consideration to people with limited financial resources, youth at risk, the elderly, the disabled and others with special needs.



Service and Management

OBJECTIVE P-6: Ensure Issaquah's park facilities are safe and well managed while providing all segments of the community with quality park and recreational facilities and services.

Service and Management Policies:



P-6.1 Services for a Variety of Persons: Provide natural open space, multiple-use parks, and recreational opportunities and services to a variety of age groups, interests, and abilities throughout the park system.

P-6.2 Park Programs: Offer a wide variety of recreational programs, services and classes to meet the community's diverse needs. The programs, services and classes should be characterized by quality, caring and efficiency.

P-6.3 Safety: Promote the opportunity for use and minimize user and neighborhood conflict, through the provision of safe and well-managed park facilities, including open space and active recreation facilities. Anticipate the security and safety concerns of users, and design parks and parks recreational programs with these concerns in mind. Strategies to alleviate potential security and safety concerns include: requesting

police patrols, posting signage with regulations for behavior and appropriate times and ways to use parklands and park facilities, regular maintenance, outdoor lighting and appropriate landscaping.

P-6.4 Citizen Involvement: Utilize citizen involvement and participation in planning, developing, operating, stewarding and maintaining the City of Issaquah's park system. A variety of citizens and recreational users should be included in the review of strategies and implementation of park planning projects. City sanctioned volunteer activities are encouraged when feasible for maintenance and stewardship of the City's parks and open spaces.

P-6.5 Trails: Use the *Urban Trails Plan* and the 1992 *Issaquah Area Wildlife and Recreation Trails Plan* as background and guidelines for future planning for trails and supplemental facilities within the City's parks, recreation and open space areas. Place emphasis on connecting trails to existing local, regional, and state trail systems as shown in the [Recreational Trail and Non-Motorized Transportation Corridor Map \(Map 8-1\)](#).

P-6.6 Integrated Pest Management and Plant Health Care: Design, develop and manage park facilities utilizing plant health care and Integrated Pest Management approaches and strategies. For example, these approaches include matching appropriate plants to their respective sites, emphasize proper site preparation to ensure plant establishment, promote long term success with a minimum of artificial inputs, conserve water, reduce use of chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers and protect water quality, endangered species and public health, while also considering public safety, economic, legal and/or aesthetic requirements. Implementation for these approaches and strategies shall be included in a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) or Maintenance and Operation Manual.

P-6.7 Facility Management: Design, develop, construct, maintain and operate facilities when feasible in a resource efficient and sustainable manner, which minimizes impacts to and improves the quality of the environment, community and economy.

Acquisition and Development

OBJECTIVE P-7: Acquire land for future parks, trails and trail connections and natural open space when such lands are available and affordable, to meet present and future community and user demands and needs.

Acquisition and Development Policies:



P-7.1 Park Land Acquisition: Acquire suitable land when available, but development of park and recreational facilities must not exceed funding or the ability to maintain or to operate facilities.

P-7.2 Inventory and Identification: Inventory existing developed and undeveloped parks and determine appropriate recreational uses and facilities at these sites.

P-7.3 Minimum Facilities: Provide minimum access, such as trails, where full development is not appropriate or possible.

P-7.4 Acquisition Priority: Priority should be placed on acquiring land adjacent to existing parkland to augment the potential uses of those facilities and to improve linkages between parks.

P-7.5 Neighborhood Needs: When feasible, priority should be given to acquiring and developing sites that provide recreational facilities within neighborhoods in the City. These areas should be easily accessible, visible, and efficient to maintain and operate. Neighborhood parks are desirable within ¼ to ½ mile of each residence. Neighborhood parks typically feature about three to five acres and include children’s play structures, restrooms, grass play or sports field, picnic tables and benches, and small parking area.

P-7.6 Acquisition of Wildlife Habitat Areas: When feasible, priority should be given to the identification, acquisition and preservation of natural open space areas and, wildlife corridors in order to allow wildlife (both aquatic and terrestrial) migration from place to place, and to avoid isolation of habitat areas. Acquisition sites should promote wildlife habitat connectivity.

Partnerships

OBJECTIVE P-8: Continue, or create where beneficial to the public, partnerships with local, state, federal and regional agencies. Partner with the Issaquah School District, businesses, developers, non-profit organizations, user groups and neighborhood groups in order to provide and to assist in the management and maintenance of parks, open space, recreation facilities, services and security.

Partnerships Policies:

P-8.1 Partnerships with Developers: Developers shall mitigate or offset the impacts of their new development by providing parkland and park facilities, and/or payment of impact fees in lieu of such land or facilities, through the process established by the City. Additional on-site design requirements are also appropriate for larger subdivisions and multifamily developments. In the commercial areas of the City, developers shall mitigate by providing public spaces and facilities such as plazas, courtyards, and pedestrian connections on-site through Land Use Code development requirements and/or incentives. Area wide improvement districts are also supported to address the needs for commercial area park facilities.

P-8.2 Neighborhood and Business Partnerships: Encourage partnerships with neighborhoods and existing businesses to provide land or facilities for parks including, but not limited to: cost sharing for acquisition and development, furnishing materials or equipment, or providing maintenance or security. Promote partnerships with non-profit and service organizations. These groups provide increased expertise, interest, volunteers, and/or funding for a particular facility or program provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Regional Coordination

OBJECTIVE P-9: Participate in coordination, in cooperation and in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies on a regional basis in order to provide an effective and efficient regional natural open space and park system, thus providing improved recreational opportunities, services, and facilities for people living in the greater Issaquah area. Key agencies include the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and the United States Forest Service.

Regional Coordination Policies:

P-9.1 Cooperative Planning Efforts: Participate in the cooperative regional planning efforts among agencies and jurisdictions in order to provide recreational opportunities and facilities on inter-jurisdictional public lands. The City shall also work together with these jurisdictions and organizations to identify jurisdictional roles and responsibilities in contributing to regional needs, and identify, establish, protect and steward urban and rural open space corridors of regional significance.



P-9.2 Specific Partnerships: Due to the local benefit of regional public open space lands, the City should continue its coordination and participation in the "Issaquah Alps" and Upper Snoqualmie Valley Interagency Committee, the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Trust, Issaquah Alps Trail Club, Save Lake Sammamish and other non-profit groups.

Chapter 3

Community Setting and Inventory of City Parks and Natural Open Space

After Issaquah's incorporation in 1899 and over the years, people's needs within the community turned from an agricultural production and timber harvesting to products, utilities, and social interaction. Despite steady growth, Issaquah remained a relatively isolated community until 1940 when the Lake Washington floating bridge opened.

Since that time, the City of Issaquah has undergone a rapid change in its demographics and has experienced a population increase in the last seventy years. Along with this change in population, the City anticipates that its population will continue to increase for the next ten to fifteen years. This growth will continue to affect community decisions on the provision of parks, recreational opportunities and facilities.

As Issaquah's population continues to increase and development occurring within the city, land for additional parks and open space available for active and passive recreation has become increasingly scarce. The physical beauties of the area, characterized by steep wooded hillsides, clear creeks and streams, contiguous wetland environments, form a basis for people to choose Issaquah as their home. It is therefore important that we have a park plan that anticipates the land and resources needed to serve the demands of our growing population.

3.1 Population

Since the adoption of the Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan in 2004, the City of Issaquah, along with the greater Puget Sound Metropolitan Area, has experienced a surge in population growth and dynamics. Moreover in the next twenty years, projections show that the Eastside area, including the communities of Issaquah, Bellevue, Redmond and Kirkland, are estimated by King County to potentially grow by as much as 40% percent (Source: King County Budget Office, 2009). To meet Growth Management Act (GMA) objectives and stay within the Urban Growth Area (UGA), much of this growth will be accommodated through re-development of existing downtown areas and neighborhoods, which will further increase population density. With this increased density, additional demand will be placed upon parks, recreational facilities and open space areas.

Over the next fifteen to twenty years, Issaquah's population is expected to increase significantly as are the number of households and jobs. Through annexations between 2004 and 2009, Issaquah's city limits continue to expand as well. Issaquah has approved three annexations since 2004 (Providence Pt, Greenwood Pt / South Cove, and Highlands Drive), resulting in an increase in size from 10.38 square miles to 11 square miles.

In 2003, the City's population was 15,110, and as of 2009, the City's population is 26,320, which is greater than the 2003 expected projections. In 2003, the projected city population by 2022 was 25,236 and this population estimate has already been exceeded. It is now projected that with the inclusion of all of the annexation areas, and new development and redevelopment, the potential exists for over 40,000 people to live in the City by 2022.

The City has identified, as part of the GMA requirements, Potential Annexation Areas (PAAs) within the designated Urban Growth Area (UGA), which are located adjacent to the City. Due to their proximity, the City already provides various public services for the residents and commercial establishments located within the PAAs, including recreational opportunities and facilities through the City's park system, and recreational programming. These six identified PAAs include:

Klahanie
Lake Sammamish State Park
East Cougar Mountain
Issaquah 69
Highlands Drive Area
King County Island

With inclusion of these PAAs into the City and new development occurring within the city limits, the City's population is anticipated to increase to a population of more than 40,000 by 2022. The actual geographic size of the City would also increase from 7,056 acres to 9,659 acres.

3.2 Inventory of City Parks, Facilities and Open Space

Since 2004, the City has acquired and/or developed seven new parks; acquired or added to nine new natural open space areas; and acquired two new park sites for future development.

Several of the parks and natural open space areas, Meerwood Park, Timberlake Park Sammamish Cove Park and Lewis Creek Natural Area were transferred by King County to the City when the City annexed the South Cove Area.



Other parks and natural open space areas were acquired or developed due to the passage of the Parks and Open Space Bond in November 2006. The bond funds were matched with grant monies, which allowed the City to maximize the amount of funding for park development and natural open space acquisitions along Issaquah Creek and the Cougar Mt./Squak Mt. Wildlife Corridor.

Also new active recreational facilities, e.g., sports fields, children's play structures, etc. have been either replaced or constructed to off-set the recreational needs of the residents now living in the new development areas/neighborhoods located in the City. To provide the best recreational opportunities it can, the City offers various park, recreational facilities and open space opportunities, which are generally divided into the following categories:

Community Parks/Sports Complex
Community Recreational Facilities
Neighborhood Parks
Parkways
Recreational Trails
Natural Open Space
Undeveloped Park Parcels

To define the listed park categories, a Community Park/Sports Complex serves a broad purpose and meets community-based recreation needs including but not limited to sports fields for a variety of sports, which are programmed; tennis courts; basketball courts; open play fields/areas; children's playgrounds; picnic shelter, tables, and benches; restrooms; and, parking. Community Parks/Sports Complexes are generally between 20 – 30 acres or larger in size and serve several city neighborhoods.

Community Recreational Facilities are the in-door facilities, such as the Issaquah Community Center and Julius Boehm Pool. These facilities are typically large enough to serve a population size of 20,000 people. These facilities can accommodate a variety of community services from sports and recreation to human services.

Neighborhood Parks are the basic park for a community neighborhood. The parks are located within a neighborhood and try to be no further than ¼ to ½ mile from the homes located within the neighborhood. These parks are typically 3 – 5 acres in size and may have one sports field or open play area; children's play structure; picnic tables and benches; restroom; and, parking.

Parkways are the small or mini-parks, green spaces and urban trails that tie the park system together and provide an enjoyable urban environment for the community.

Recreational Trails are tied with the parkways as the City's urban trail system provides recreational and healthful opportunities for people, such as walking and riding a bicycle through out the city. In addition, recreational trails can be located within the City's natural open space areas and provide a less built environment experience for the recreational users.

Natural Open Space can be as large as the City's Tradition Plateau Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) at 450 acres or as small as a city lot of 5,000 square feet located adjacent to Issaquah Creek. The primary purpose of natural open space is to protect and preserve wildlife habitat with low-impact recreational use as a secondary use. Trails and ancillary structures to support the trails are allowed in order to promote activities such as environmental education, nature contemplation and walking.

The following is an inventory of the current City owned park properties:

Community Parks/Sports Complex

Tibbetts Valley Park (965 12th Ave. NW): A thirty acre park located at the southeast corner of the SR 900 (Renton-Issaquah Road) and Newport Way intersection. The park contains five sports fields (three softball/little league fields and two baseball fields), basketball court, four tennis courts, children's play equipment, picnic shelter, picnic tables, a concession stand, restroom, interconnecting trails, Tibbetts Creek, wetland areas, and parking lots.

Central Park (1907 Park Dr. NE): Central Park, which is located in the Issaquah Highlands Development, includes three park pads which offer various active recreational facilities from a children's playground to athletic sports fields.

Pad #1: Baseball/softball fields, children's playground, picnic shelter, restroom, open grass field, and parking.

Pad #2: Two little league baseball fields, two tennis courts, restroom and parking.

Pad #3: Two synthetic turf multiple use athletic fields and parking.



Community Facilities

Tibbetts Creek Manor (750 17th Ave. NW): The manor is located on three acres adjacent to the Tibbetts Valley Park complex. The manor consists of a conference center/social events facility with landscaped grounds, Tibbetts Creek, storage / maintenance barn, administrative offices, and parking lots. The manor is available for community, non-profit organizations, business, and private rentals.



Issaquah Community Center (ICC) and Community Green (301 Rainier Blvd. South): The ICC is located on four acres toward the south end of old-town Issaquah on Rainier Blvd. South. The Community Center complex includes: the community center, which contains a multipurpose area that accommodates a wide range of activities from basketball to trade shows, a youth center, a weight room area, two multiple use rooms, and park offices; and a community green that provides opportunities for a play field and outdoor concerts; and, an outdoor skate park. The ICC is also available to rent by community, non-profit organizations, businesses, and private parties.

Julius Boehm Pool (50 SE Clark St.): The Julius Boehm Pool is an indoor pool facility that provides family swim opportunities; lap swimming; swim lessons; aquatic exercise programs; pool party rentals; swim team times; and, American Red Cross classes.

Issaquah Trails Center (110 SE Bush Street): The Issaquah Trails Center is located north of the Community Center and provides a conference room for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Memorial Park Center (MPC - 2nd Avenue NE): The Memorial Park Center is located on the east side of Veterans' Memorial Field and provides facilities for the provision of community programs including a day-program for pre-school age children.

Issaquah Senior Center (120 E. Sunset Way): The Issaquah Senior Center is located on the west side of Veterans' Memorial Field and provides facilities for the provision of community programs, services and activities for senior citizens. These services and activities include meals, social activities and programs, field trips, etc. (Note: The Parks Dept. does not schedule programs or rent the facility to other groups. Contact the Senior Center.)

Depot Park (North of the City Hall/Police Station): Located in the center of Issaquah, west of Veterans' Memorial Field, Depot Park is two acres in size and contains the restored historic train depot; loading platform, in addition to landscaped grounds and walkway to the corner of Front Street and East Sunset Way, a picnic area; an informal stage area, and a parking lot.

Pickering Farm (1730 10th Ave. NW): The Pickering Farm is situated on nine acres of land within the Pickering Place Development. The farm consists of the Pickering Barn, which is a community facility that is also available for rentals by the community, non-profit organizations, businesses, and private parties. The site is the location of the community-teaching garden, a 145-space parking lot, storage facility, undeveloped park space, wetlands and riparian open space adjacent to Issaquah Creek, and the Pickering Trail. The master site plan for the farm was completed in 2002.

Building Facilities and Parks Maintenance Shop (525 First Ave. NW): This four acre site is located at the confluence of the main stem and East Fork of Issaquah Creek and contains the Building Facilities and Parks Maintenance Shop and yard.

Neighborhood Parks

Veterans' Memorial Field (2nd Ave. NE): This four-acre park is located in the heart of downtown Issaquah, north of the City Hall/Police Station. The park site includes the Senior Center, Memorial Park Center, a shared use sports field, including softball/baseball and football; a children's play lot; horseshoe pits; picnic tables; a half basketball court; the Rainier Multiple Use Trail; and, a small parking lot.

Grand View Park (2306 NE Natalie Way): On a clear day, the park has a spectacular view of Mt. Baker. A paved walkway, benches, picnic area, children's play lot, restroom, parking and a grass field are provided at this park site.

Black Nugget Park (1953 – 24th Ave. NE): Black Nugget Park provides two tennis courts, one basketball court, children's play lot, picnic tables, benches and a grass field.

Squak Valley Park (10319 Issaquah–Hobart Rd.): Squak Valley Park is located at the south end of town and provides three mod-sized soccer fields, children's play lot, picnic tables, benches, restroom and parking. The lower 'bench area' is part of the Issaquah Creek riparian corridor.



Harvey Manning Park at Talus (919 Bear Ridge Ct.): Harvey Manning Park at Talus is located at the south end of the Talus Development/Neighborhood and provides a children's play lot, picnic tables, benches, walking path, restroom, grass field and a small parking lot.

Hillside Park (Mt. McKinley Drive SW): The 20-acre park site is located at the end of Mt. McKinley Drive SW. The park contains natural open space, trails, and a small sports playfield.



Meerwood Park (4703 – 192nd Ave. SE): This park provides a children's play lot, tennis court that doubles as a basketball court, picnic tables, benches, and grass field.

Timberlake Park (West Lake Sammamish Parkway/182nd Ave. SE): This park site is predominantly forested and provides a small parking area, ½ mile trail down to the Lake Sammamish shore and small beach area, picnic tables, benches, small grass field, and scenic view of the lake. The park site is also part of the Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail, a non-motorized boating trail.

Gibson Park (Newport Way and W. Sunset Way): Located on the southeast corner of West Sunset Way and Newport Way South, Gibson Park has an acre sized open play field; a children's play structure; a picnic shelter and tables (see photo below); and, a meeting hall with kitchen and restroom. (Note: The Parks and Recreation Department does not schedule programs or rent the meeting hall to other groups. Contact the Kiwanis Club for rental information.)

Parkways

Gilman Boulevard Parkway (Gilman Blvd.): Gilman Boulevard Parkway has extensive plantings and trees including edible fruit, picnic tables, benches, grassy open spaces, sidewalks and Issaquah Creek viewpoints.

Rainier Boulevard Parkway (Rainier Blvd.): Rainier Boulevard Parkway links Memorial, Depot and Centennial Parks with a multiple use cross-town trail (Rainier Multiple Use Trail).



Centennial Park (Front St. N. and Rainier Ave. N): Located on Front Street North and Rainier Avenue North, Centennial Park has half an acre of landscaped grounds and lawn where public art is displayed.

Cornick Park (Front St. S. and Newport Way): Located on Front Street South, Cornick Park contains one-quarter of an acre of landscaped grounds.

Walen Hill Park (SW corner of Newport Way and Sunset Way West): Located on the southwest corner of Newport Way and Sunset Way, Walen Hill Park and has an acre of open lawn, picnic area, and viewpoint overlooking the City.

Mine Hill Park (South side of Wildwood Blvd. SW): Located off of Wildwood Boulevard SW, Mine Hill Park has five acres of natural area, Issaquah Creek viewing platform, and trail.

Recreational Trails



The Gilman Blvd. Edible Landscaping Tour: The tour begins at the Issaquah Visitor Information Center and continues to the west along both sides of Gilman Blvd. to the Town and Country and Meadows Shopping Centers.

Rainier Trail: The Rainier Trail is a multiple-use trail that is approximately two and half (2 ½) miles long and follows the former railroad corridor through the historic Issaquah downtown area. The route extends from Gilman Blvd. to Second Avenue and circles back toward E. Sunset Way. This north – south route encompasses some of the City’s many historic buildings and recreational opportunities, including the Issaquah Visitor Information Center, the Issaquah Depot, Art-in-the-Park, Senior Center, and the Issaquah Community Center.

Maple – Juniper Trail: This multiple-use trail provides an east-west trail connection from SR 900/17th Ave. NW to the City’s historic Olde Town. This one-mile route also provides a level, walking and bicycle route that connects the downtown commercial districts and residential neighborhoods. A connection from this trail to the Rainier Trail is planned.

Newport Way Trail: This trail is almost one mile in length and parallels Newport Way on its north side. The trail extends from the Issaquah Commons Shopping District to East Sunset Way.

Sammamish Trail: The Sammamish Trail is a multiple use trail that parallels, on the north side, NW Sammamish Road. The trail provides walking and bicycle access to Lake Sammamish State Park and links to the Pickering Trail.

Issaquah – Preston Trail: The Issaquah – Preston Regional Trail is a multiple use trail that is part of the I-90/Mountains to Sound Greenway and cross state trail. The trail connects to King County's East Lake Sammamish and Preston – Snoqualmie Regional Trails.

Pickering Trail: The Pickering Trail connects to the Sammamish Trail on the north and extends approximately three-quarters (3/4) of a mile south to where it links to King County's East Lake Sammamish Regional Trail. The Pickering Trail parallels and bridges Issaquah Creek and provides a wonderful opportunity to view the creek and its riparian corridor.



Tradition Plateau Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) Trail System: The City's 445 acres located on the Tradition Plateau, West Tiger Mountain, contains a low-impact trail system which includes trails for walking, hiking, nature enjoyment, an accessible trail and a few shared-use trails. Primary access to this trail system is from the High Point Trailhead, off of I-90. Neighborhood access is provided from Second Avenue/High School Trail and E. Sunset Way/Sunset Way Trail.

Squak Mountain Access Trail: The Squak Mountain Access Trail provides walking and hiking access from downtown (Issaquah Trails Center) to Squak Mountain State Park. The trail first follows along Issaquah Creek, goes through the Foothills and Kelkari neighborhoods, up through King County open space lands and connects to the East Ridge Trail up to Squak Mountain State Park.

Bullitt Fireplace/Access Trail: The Bullitt Fireplace Trail starts at a neighborhood trail access point off of Mountainside Drive. The trail provides hiking access into Squak Mountain State Park.

Bear Ridge Trail: The Bear Ridge Trail, with access off of SR 900, traverses the Talus Native Growth Protection Area and connects to the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park trail system.

Talus Bridge Trail: The Talus Bridge Trail provides a pedestrian trail connection from the south end of the Talus Development to the Bear Ridge Trail, which in turn connects to the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park trail system.

Natural Open Space

Tradition Plateau/West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) (SE 79th Street): The NRCA is located on Tiger Mountain, east of downtown Issaquah and contains 445 acres of city ownership. The total size of the NRCA is approx. 4,400 acres and was designated by the City and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) as a "Natural Resource Conservation Area" to protect wildlife habitat values. The NRCA offers low-impact recreational hiking trails, viewing platforms and viewpoints of Tradition and Round Lakes, open space and wildland habitat for flora and fauna. The city lands are co-managed with the WDNR.

Talus Native Growth Protection Area (NGPA) (SR 900/Renton-Issaquah Road SE): As part of the Talus Development Project, 385-acres of open space land were dedicated by the Talus Development to the City as a Native Growth Protection Area (NGPA). The NGPA covers the area south of the West Fork of Tibbetts Creek on Cougar Mountain and the west slope of Squak Mountain (east and south of Mountainside Drive). The Bullitt Fireplace/Access Trail crosses the NGPA from the neighborhood trailhead located on Mountainside Drive and provides pedestrian/hiker access to Squak Mountain State Park. On the Cougar Mountain portion of the NGPA, the Bear Ridge and Talus Bridge Trails provide pedestrian/hiker access into King County's Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. Other trails from within the Talus Development also connect to the county park.

Squak Valley Park North (Issaquah-Hobart Road): Located at the south end of the City along the Issaquah-Hobart Road, the park site is about 11 acres in size. As of 2009, the City is planning a restoration project for Issaquah Creek at this site.

South Issaquah Creek Greenway (SE Sycamore Creek Lane): Located in the Sycamore neighborhood at the south end of town, the Greenway encompasses approximately ten acres of creek side and wetland open space area. Stewardship/riparian enhancement projects have occurred on the site.



Foothills at Issaquah Open Space (Issaquah Creek/Sunrise Place): The Foothills at Issaquah Open Space extends and forms a wildlife corridor from the South Issaquah Creek Greenway up to Squak Mountain State Park. The Squak Mountain Access Trail traverses the open space area and provides hiker access to the King County and State Park lands.

Ingi Johnson Park (Front Street S.): This natural open space area is located on the main stem of Issaquah Creek at the Issaquah Fish Hatchery dam site. The park is slated for wildlife habitat enhancement, and aquatic and riparian corridor restoration.

Berntsen Park (810 – 4th Ave. NW): The park is located on the main stem of Issaquah Creek and is slated for wildlife enhancement and riparian corridor restoration.

Emily Darst Park (East bank of Issaquah Creek/north of I-90): This park is located on the east bank of Issaquah Creek, just north of I-90. The park contains twelve acres of wetlands and open space habitat areas which are traversed on the south end by the Pickering Multiple Use Trail. Several stewardship projects have occurred on the site in order to improve and enhance habitat values along Issaquah Creek and in the upland wetland areas. The Pickering Trail connects to the King County East Lake Sammamish Regional Trail.

Sammamish Cove Park: This land was acquired for the preservation of natural open space/wildlife habitat and does not include any facilities. Tibbetts Creek traverses the northwest portion of the site.

Issaquah Highlands: As part of the Issaquah Highlands Development, 270 acres of open space land was dedicated to the City. These open space areas are interspersed between the neighborhoods that comprise the Issaquah Highlands Development. (See King County Grand Ridge Park for additional open space set aside as part of the Issaquah Highlands Development.)

Lewis Creek Natural Area: The Lewis Creek Natural Area is located on the west end of the city off of Newport Way. The natural area consists of second-growth forest.

Park Hill Open Space: The 13 acre site provides a second growth forested open space area within the Park Hill and Overdale neighborhoods.

Open Space Areas within Neighborhoods including Native Growth Protection Easements/Areas (NGPE or NGPA) and Issaquah Creek WaterWays Program: Through development review and approval, or acquisition for Issaquah Creek flood way projects, open space and wildlife habitat land has been set aside to offset developmental impacts adjacent to sensitive resource areas. For example, the Foothills at Issaquah Development set aside as a Native Growth Protection Easement (NGPE) and deeded the acreage to the City in order to safeguard sensitive natural resources.

Undeveloped Park Parcels

Issaquah Creek Confluence Park Planning Area: The approx. 15 acre Issaquah Creek Confluence Park area is comprised of three park sites: Issaquah Creek, Cybil-Madeline and Tollë Anderson Parks. A future expansion of the park area includes the Parks Maintenance and Building Facilities Shop. A park master site plan for the confluence area is planned for winter 2010.

Tollë Anderson Park (595 Rainier Blvd. N.): The park site is located at the confluence of the main stem and East Fork of Issaquah Creek and is adjacent to Cybil-Madeline Park. The site is approx. 4 acres in size.

Cybil-Madeline Park (East bank of Issaquah Creek at NW Holly St. and Rainier Blvd. N.): The park is located adjacent to Tollë Anderson Park and on the east bank of Issaquah Creek across the creek from the Issaquah School District Administrative offices. This site is approximately 5.5 acres in size. Stewardship/riparian habitat enhancement projects have occurred on site along Issaquah Creek.



Issaquah Creek Park (West bank of Issaquah Creek at NW Third Ct.): This site is located to the south and across the creek from Cybil-Madeline Park (southeast of the Issaquah School District Administrative offices), with vehicular access from Third Court NW. The site is approximately 4.5 acres in size and has been the site of riparian and in-stream habitat restoration projects.

Corra Park (Third and Dogwood): A neighborhood park is planned for park site in the future.

3.3 Inventory of Issaquah School District Facilities (within Issaquah City Limits)

The City of Issaquah and Issaquah School District have entered into an “Interlocal Agreement Regarding the Joint Use, Development and Maintenance of City and District Properties” (See Appendix E), which is a cooperative effort for the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of school district and city recreational facilities. The City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department primarily utilizes the school facilities for recreational programs and services. For the schools located in the primary parks and recreation service area, the City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Dept. has first claim for the use of those schools.

Issaquah High School: Issaquah High School is located at 700 Second Ave. SE. At the date of this document, the high school is in the process of being rebuilt by phases. Athletic facilities at the school include multiple use indoor gym that includes basketball courts and weight room facilities; one shared use football/soccer synthetic turf field surrounded by a ¼ mile track and bleachers; two grass softball fields, one baseball field; and six tennis courts. A performing arts center/theater is also being constructed at the school.

Tiger Mountain Community High School: Tiger Mountain Community High School is located at 355 SE Evans Lane. This high school shares athletic facilities with Issaquah High School but also has an outdoor court/patio area for recreational activities.

Issaquah Middle School: The middle school is located at 400 First Ave. SE, to the south of the Issaquah Community Center. Athletic facilities at the middle school includes two indoor gyms with basketball courts, gymnastic equipment, and a weight room; six outdoor half court basketball courts; and, an outdoor shared-use grass sports field that includes a ¼ mile track

Clark Elementary School: This school is located at 500 Second Ave. SE, to the north of Issaquah High School. The school includes an indoor multi-purpose room; a covered outdoor play area; a children's playground with equipment; an outdoor play field that includes a softball field and an all-weather sand field.

Issaquah Valley Elementary School: The elementary school is located at 555 NW Holly Street, adjacent and to the west of the Issaquah School District Administrative offices. The school includes an in-door multi-purpose room; a covered outdoor play area; an outdoor-shared use grass field that includes a softball/little league field with bleachers; and, two children's playgrounds with equipment. Two shared-use sports fields (softball/little league/soccer) are located between the elementary school and the school district offices.

Grand Ridge Elementary School (1739 NE Park Drive): The school is located at 1739 NE Park Drive in the Issaquah Highlands Development. Central Park is located just east of the school campus. The school includes a multi-purpose gym with basketball courts and an outdoor multi-purpose sand field. Issaquah Soccer Club rents the field for soccer games.

Chapter 4

Inventory of Regional Parks and Recreational Facilities

The City of Issaquah is fortunate to be centrally located within the Eastside Puget Sound area and to have many passive and active recreational opportunities available within the region. The following is an inventory of facilities that are located within the City's secondary service area (See Primary and Secondary Service Areas Map) and complement the recreational opportunities that are available within the City's primary service area.

Private facilities are not included in the following inventory of parks and recreational facilities for the City's service areas. Although private facilities can help meet recreational needs for a neighborhood or community, they are subject to change, modification, or closure without public involvement. Additionally, such private facilities typically do not provide the same recreational opportunities or serve the same needs as larger scale public parks and open space. The potential for competition or duplication, while limited, is taken into account when evaluating future projects.

City of Sammamish

Beaver Lake Park: Beaver Lake Park includes both passive and active recreational opportunities. The park provides an indoor rental facility; baseball and softball fields; children's play structure; picnic shelter, picnic tables and barbecue grill; dog off-leash area; restrooms; and, parking lot. Park amenities also include a lakeshore beach; wildlife viewing areas; and, trails.

Beaver Lake Preserve: The preserve provides an opportunity for walking trails and wildlife viewing.

Bill Reams East Sammamish Park: East Sammamish Park is located on NE 16th Street, to the north of Margaret Mead Elementary School. Recreational opportunities at this park focus on active recreational facilities, including soccer, lacrosse, baseball and softball fields with seating/bleachers; tennis courts; children's play structure; picnic shelter, tables and barbecue grill; restrooms; and, parking.

Eastlake Community Fields: Eastlake Community Fields are shared with Eastlake High School and provide active recreational facilities including baseball, lacrosse, soccer, softball fields; restroom and parking area.

Ebright Creek Park: Ebright Creek Park provides a picnic shelter, picnic tables and barbecue grill; basketball court; climbing wall; children's play structure; restroom; trails; wildlife viewing area, and parking area.

NE Sammamish Park: NE Sammamish Park is located on Sahalee Way, Sammamish's north entry to the city. The park currently provides: children's play structure; basketball court; tennis courts; picnic tables; and, parking lot.

Pine Lake Park: The park is located on 228th Ave. SE on the Sammamish Plateau and provides waterfront access to Pine Lake. The park provides both active and passive recreational opportunities such as baseball/softball fields; soccer field; lacrosse field; basketball court; tennis courts; children's play structure; climbing wall; picnicking; a woodland area with trails; fishing/swimming area; a car-top boat launch; restroom, and parking.

Sammamish Commons: Sammamish Commons includes an indoor rental facility; picnic shelter, group picnic facilities, picnic tables, barbecue grill; basketball court; climbing wall; children's play structure; skate park; trails; wildlife viewing area and parking.

Skyline Community Fields: The City of Sammamish shares the sport field facilities with Skyline High School. Baseball, lacrosse, soccer and softball fields plus restrooms and parking are provided at the school.

City of Bellevue

Lakemont Community Park: Lakemont Community Park is located on Village Park Drive SE, just west of the Bellevue/Issaquah city limits. The park encompasses approximately 16 acres and includes one sports field (softball/little league); one basketball court, children's play structures and areas; two tennis courts; restrooms, and trails through the park. The park also includes a blue/green grass area and other water detention facilities.

Issaquah School District Facilities (Outside of the Issaquah City Limits)

The City of Issaquah and Issaquah School District have entered into an "Interlocal Agreement Regarding the Joint Use, Development and Maintenance of City and District Properties" (see Appendix E) that is a cooperative effort for the planning, development, operation and maintenance of school district and city recreational facilities. The City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department primarily utilizes school facilities for recreational programs and services. For the schools located in the secondary parks and recreation service area, the City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Dept. has secondary claim for the use of the schools. For example, the City of Sammamish has first claim on the use of schools located within their city limits.

Skyline High School (SHS)/Skyline Community Fields : SHS is located at 1122 - 228th NE, Sammamish. Recreational facilities include: stadium with all weather track and shared all weather football/soccer field; two softball fields; one baseball field; 6 tennis courts; 14 benches; two bleachers; one play structure; two auxiliary gyms that accommodate basketball, gymnastics, etc.

Liberty High School (LHS): LHS is located at 16655 SE 136th Street, Renton. LHS contains the following facilities: a gym with basketball courts, a baseball field; a softball field; stadium with a track, and shared all weather football/soccer field; and 6 tennis courts.

Beaver Lake Middle School: Beaver Lake is located at 25025 SE 32nd Street, Issaquah. Recreational facilities located at the school include: a gym with basketball courts; two auxiliary gyms, a shared use field and surrounding track and six sports courts (6 baskets).

Pine Lake Middle School: Pine Lake is located at 3200 – 228th Ave. SE, Sammamish and recreational facilities include: one maintenance shed, one football field, one ¼ mile track, two softball fields, 3 basketball courts, 4 benches; one bleacher; 15 picnic tables; one group picnic area; three bicycle racks; and, one unpaved trail and a gym and an auxiliary gym that accommodate basketball, gymnastics, etc.

Pacific Cascade Freshman Campus: The campus is located on the Issaquah - Fall City Road and is currently used for the freshman/9th Grade classes for Issaquah and Skyline High Schools. However, in 2010 it is anticipated that the school will be converted to a middle school once the remodel of Issaquah High School has been completed. The school recreational facilities include a main multi-purpose gym with basketball courts, an auxiliary gym with a weight room, outdoor field and track, and softball and baseball fields.

Challenger Elementary School: Challenger is located at 25200 Klahanie Blvd. SE, Issaquah and the facilities found at the school include: a multi-purpose room; a gym with basketball courts, an auditorium, a baseball/soccer field.

Discovery Elementary School: Discovery is located at 2300 – 228th Ave. SE, Sammamish and recreational facilities include: a multi-purpose room, gym with two basketball courts, a baseball field/soccer field, three benches, three picnic tables, three play structures, three tetherballs, and three bicycle racks.

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (KC DNR & Parks)

Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park: This regional natural open space or wildland park encompasses approximately 2,800 acres of public land. Access to the park is provided by three regional trailheads: Red Town, at the juncture of Newcastle Coal Creek Road and Lakemont Blvd. SE; Anti-Aircraft Peak, off of SE Cougar Mountain Drive; and, Wilderness Creek Trailhead, accessed from SR 900 (Renton-Issaquah Road). The Cougar Visitor Center is located off of the main entry road, 166th Way SE.

The wildland park is managed by King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks as a natural open space park that contains a diversity of vegetation and wildlife habitat; scenic and visual resource values cultural/historical resources; and, passive recreational opportunities. The park contains approximately 28 miles of hiking and shared hiking/equestrian trails within its trail system. Other uses on the trails are prohibited.



Cougar Mtn./Squak Mtn. Corridor: To provide a wildlife and trail corridor between the public lands located between Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and Squak Mountain State Park, the county acquired approx. 431 acres of land on the west slope of Squak Mountain. The only recreational use includes hiking trails connecting the two mountains.

Duthie Hill Park: The park is located to the north of Grand Ridge Park. A mountain bike course is under construction as a partnership between Evergreen Mountain Bicycle Alliance and King County Parks.

Klahanie Park: This 64 acre park was built to accommodate recreational demand from the Klahanie Development and contains 1 baseball field, 1 open play field, 1 parking lot, 1 play equipment area, 2 soccer fields, and 1 restroom.

Soaring Eagle Regional Park: Soaring Eagle Park, located on the East Sammamish Plateau, is an undeveloped 627-acre forested park with access from SR 202 (Redmond – Fall City Road). Presently the park contains almost 13 miles of trails.

Grand Ridge Park: This linear natural 1,520-acre open space park is located east of the Issaquah Highlands Development with public access proposed or planned from the City of Issaquah Central Park; from High Point North (off of High Point Way SE); and, from the county owned Duthie Hill Park. The park is managed as a natural open space park with an emphasis on protection and enhancement of natural systems. Recreational use is limited to a trail system constructed to meet U.S. Forest Service trail standards. The main north – south trail is a multiple use trail that accommodates hikers, equestrians and mountain bicyclists (non-motorized use only).

Mitchell Hill Connector: The connector provides natural open space/habitat values connecting between Grand Ridge Park and Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources forestland.

Preston Athletic Fields: The almost 13 acre site provides 2 synthetic turf soccer fields, one baseball field, children’s play structure, restroom and two parking lots. More park improvements are planned in the future.

Preston Mill: The approximately 25 acre Preston Mill site consists of a parking area and old historic mill buildings.

Preston Park: The park includes a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era Community Center, children’s play equipment area, 1 tennis court and parking area.

Raging River Natural Area (Preston): This 50 acre property was acquired to preserve in-stream and riparian habitat values along the Raging River, just downstream of the Preston Mill.

Issaquah Creek Park Natural Area: This natural open space area was acquired to increase wildlife habitat and natural open space on the east slope of Squak Mountain. The natural area connects to and is located west of Squak Valley Park. A trail from the park to connect to the East Ridge Trail would be desirable.

Squak Mtn./Tiger Mtn. Corridor: King County acquired approx. 266 acres to provide a wildlife corridor and protection of aquatic and terrestrial habitat between the larger public lands contained within Squak Mountain State Park and Tiger Mountain State Forest. The site also accommodates the hang-glider landing zone off of the Issaquah – Hobart Road.

East Plateau Connector Regional Trail (aka Laughing Jacobs Creek Trail): The East Plateau Connector Regional Trail provides a shared-use trail connection between the East Lake Sammamish Regional Trail and the East Plateau Regional Trail. Additionally the trail is important because it provides one of the only non-motorized travel opportunities from the Sammamish Plateau down to Lake Sammamish/Issaquah Valley. However, a critical segment of the trail needs to be acquired before the link between the East Lake Sammamish and East Plateau Regional Trails can be made.



East Lake Sammamish Regional Trail: The East Lake Sammamish Regional Trail follows the former railroad grade between the Cities of Issaquah and Redmond. The length of the trail is approximately eleven miles long and connects to the Sammamish River/Burke-Gilman Regional Trails on the west and is linked to the Issaquah – Preston Regional Trail on the east. The trail is also a critical link of the Mountains to Sound Greenway cross-state trail.

Issaquah – Preston Regional Trail: The Issaquah – Preston Regional Trail follows the former railroad grade located north of and parallel to I-90 between the City of Issaquah and the community of Preston. The trail is also an important connector between the East Lake Sammamish Regional Trail and Snoqualmie Valley Regional Trail and is part of the Mountains to Sound Greenway cross-state trail.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks)

Lake Sammamish State Park: Lake Sammamish State Park is a large 512-acre park facility with access provided to the park from the West Lake Sammamish Parkway SE and East Lake Sammamish Parkway. The park is also located at the southern tip of Lake Sammamish and contains approximately 6,858 feet of shoreline. The park includes: swimming beaches; multiple picnic areas and picnic shelters; sports fields, including one softball/little league field; nine soccer fields (operated by the Issaquah Soccer Club); the only public motorized boat launch facility on the lake; Hans Jensen Youth Camp area; extensive natural open space with trails; and multiple parking areas.



Squak Mountain State Park: This passive recreational and natural open space park is located on the City's southern city limits, and from the City, informal neighborhood access is available from Mountainside Drive and from Sunrise Place. The southern entrance to the park, Squak Mountain Trailhead, is accessed from May Valley Road. State Park owned lands include about 1,545 acres, but an additional 1,000 acres, on the east and west slopes of the mountain, are owned and managed by King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks (Cougar-Squak Connector and Squak-Tiger Connector). A total of approximately 2,545 acres of land on Squak Mountain is in public ownership. Recreational improvements include approximately 23 miles of hiking, hiking and equestrian, and interpretive trails. The Squak Mountain Trailhead contains a 35-space parking lot; an equestrian loading ramp; hitching rails; and, vault restrooms.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)



Tiger Mountain State Forest (including Tradition Plateau/West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area): The state forest contains about 13,500 Tiger Mountain/Tradition Plateau Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) encompassing approx. 4,430 acres of the total acreage. The two main access points to the state forest are from High Point Trailhead, off of I-90, and Tiger Summit Trailhead, off of Highway 18. The state forest is managed by WDNR for multiple uses. This ecosystem management integrates natural resource preservation and economic use while providing public recreational opportunities.

Recreational facilities within the state forest include: Two regional trailheads, High Point and Tiger Summit Trailheads. High Point Trailhead provides an 80-space parking lot, two mulching toilets, an interpretive/environmental education shelter, picnic tables, an accessible trail with lake-views, benches, an interpretive trail, hiking trails and two lakeshore viewing platforms within the West Tiger/Tradition Plateau Natural Resources Conservation Area. The Tiger Summit Trailhead provides a 50-space parking lot, two mulching toilets, picnic facilities; equestrian loading ramp; hitching rails; and, an interpretive trail.

The approximately 87 miles of recreational trails within the state forest are designated hiker only, horse-hiker, or multiple-use trails (i.e., hiker, horse and mountain bicycle). Moreover, about 26 miles of forest roads are available for multiple-use activities. These roads are gated and not open to public vehicular use, but one must always be aware that the roads are located within a working forest and are used for timber harvests and other permitted users. Other recreational activities allowed within the working forest side of the state forest include: hang and para-gliding, hunting, mushroom collection for personal use, and rock climbing.

Chapter 5

Natural Open Space and Habitat Conservation Account (HCA)

5.1 Introduction

The City of Issaquah is a growing suburban city located on the eastside of the Puget Sound metropolitan area. Issaquah is nestled on the valley floor between two main creeks and their tributaries, Issaquah and Tilletts Creeks, which flow into Lake Sammamish. The creek systems form the Issaquah Creek Basin, which is a sub-basin of the WRIA #8 Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed. Low mountains, Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Taylor Mountains and Grand Ridge that are also known as the “Issaquah Alps,” surround the City. Above the city and valley floor, these mountains contain a mix of residential and commercial development, and approximately 25,500 acres of public natural open space.

Because these public open space lands and their natural characteristics influence the quality of life for its residents, the City of Issaquah recognizes that protection and preservation of the City’s natural resources as an important public amenity. Additionally, through protection of these natural open space areas, these areas also provide significant wildlife habitat areas, aquifer recharge and watershed protection, and low-impact recreational opportunities. Private groups and organizations, and public agencies continue to work cooperatively and in partnership to best preserve these natural resources and provide appropriate levels of recreational use.

5.2 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

Starting in 1994, all agencies that apply for grant funding through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – Critical Habitat (CH); Urban Wildlife Habitat (UWH); and, Riparian Protection (RP) categories must meet specific planning requirements. The City is including the Open Space and Habitat Conservation Account (HCA) as a chapter of its Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (Parks Plan) to meet these planning requirements as mandated by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

The RCO administers the WWRP grants, which support five types of habitat-oriented categories: critical habitat, natural areas, state lands restoration and enhancement, urban wildlife habitat and riparian protection. Local agencies can submit grant applications through the Critical Habitat, Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Protection WWRP grant categories. Statute RCW 43.98A.010 provides the following definitions for:

- "Natural areas" means areas that have, to a significant degree, retained their natural character and are important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical, or similar features of scientific or educational value.

- "Riparian habitat" means land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species. Riparian habitat includes, but is not limited to, shorelines and near-shore marine habitat, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers.
- "Urban wildlife habitat" means lands that provide habitat important to wildlife in proximity to a metropolitan area.

In these categories, recreational or facility development is limited to items such as fencing, interpretive or observation trails, interpretive signs or kiosks, restrooms, parking, and creation or enhancement of habitat.

5.3 Natural Open Space Strategies

The City of Issaquah actively promotes the protection and stewardship of open space and wildlife habitat. The following strategies are intended to help implement the open space and wildlife habitat objectives and policies of Issaquah's Comprehensive Plan (also included in Chapter 2 of this document).



Moreover these strategies complement and provide guidance for the implementation of the objectives and policies for the protection and stewardship of open space and wildlife habitat areas. Thus, with these strategies in mind, the natural resources that are found within the City's recreation service area are a resource of regional magnitude. The freshwater, including wetlands and riparian zones, and forest habitat areas are part of the Issaquah Creek Basin and greater WRIA#8 Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed. These areas provide important wildlife habitat areas and they provide the opportunity for public passive or low impact recreational use and environmental education.

The following strategies are to further ensure the implementation for natural open space and wildlife habitat protection and preservation:

A. Natural Open Space and Natural Open Space Riparian Corridor Preservation:

- 1. Preserve, protect and where possible, enhance habitat through the acquisition of additional open space in the freshwater and forest habitat areas (Objective P-2 Natural Resource Management and Policy P-7.6 Acquisition of Wildlife Habitat Areas);*
- 2. Protect and preserve the riparian corridors and greenways of Issaquah Creek (east, north and main stem) and Tibbetts Creek through property acquisition or conservation easement (Policy P-7.6 Acquisition of Wildlife Habitat Areas);*
- 3. Implementation of a combined passive and active stewardship/management program to ensure protection and preservation of the of the habitat types and areas (Objective P-2 Natural Resource Management and Policy P-2.1 Natural Resources);*

4. *Coordinate with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure consistent management of the open space lands in accordance with the Priority Habitat and Species Program (Objective P-9 Regional Coordination);*
5. *Coordinate with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, and King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks to ensure that there is a continued ecosystem or landscape management approach for the publicly owned natural open space lands located within the Grand Ridge, Cougar, Squak, Tiger and Taylor Mountains area (also known as the “Issaquah Alps”) (Objective P-9 Regional Coordination and Policy P-9.1 Cooperative Planning Efforts);*
6. *Preserve the quality of the City’s scenic viewshed, areas and vistas (Policy P-3.4 Scenic and Visual Resources); and,*
7. *Preserve and protect historical and cultural resources and artifacts (Policy P-1.2 Natural Integrity and Heritage).*

B. Recreational Opportunities:

1. *Provide passive recreational opportunities that are consistent with the preservation and protection of the underlying habitat areas (Policy P-1.4 Recreation and Habitat and Policy P-7.3 Minimum Facilities); and,*
2. *Provide trail connections to local, regional and statewide trail systems (Policy P-6.5 Trails).*

C. Educational and Interpretive Opportunities:

1. *Institute an educational and interpretive program that promotes the preservation, protection, conservation and stewardship of habitat areas and types (Policy P-1.1 Access and Education and Policy P-2.4 Stewardship);*
2. *Provide educational and interpretive opportunities through the City and other regional interpretive facilities that illustrate the natural and cultural importance of the natural open space and wildlife habitat areas (Policy P-1.1 Access and Education, Policy P-2.4 Stewardship and Objective P-9 Regional Coordination);*
3. *Provide information on the appropriate use of or behavior (i.e., wildlife viewing and trail “etiquette”) within these natural and cultural areas in order to minimize public impacts on the natural resources and habitat areas (e.g., “Take only pictures, leave only footprints.” or “Tread lightly on the land.”) (Policy P-2.4 Stewardship, Policy P-6.5 Trails and Policy P-6.7 Facility Management); and,*
4. *Provide public safety information for passive recreational use within the natural open space areas (Policy P-6.3 Safety).*

5.4 Habitat Types and Species

The Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) have developed the Priority Habitats and Species Program to identify those species and habitats that are of greatest concern to WDFW. The program was developed as a response to help city and county planners comply with the Washington State Dept. of Ecology (WDOE) Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements. Habitat types were identified in four main categories: marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial. Two categories, freshwater and terrestrial, are found within the City's primary and secondary recreation service areas.

The two categories, freshwater and terrestrial, are obviously interrelated for the City of Issaquah because the City is traversed by Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks and is surrounded by the "Issaquah Alps" (i.e., Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Taylor Mountains and Grand Ridge). The City is situated in the lower portion of the Issaquah Creek Basin. The basin encompasses approximately 61 square miles and is drained by Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks and their tributaries. The creeks flow from their headwaters, which are located with the surrounding "Issaquah Alps" into Lake Sammamish. The Issaquah Creek Basin is one of the three most significant basins in King County; exhibits high quality habitat and diversity of fish and wildlife populations; and, produces one of the largest salmon populations in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed.

Freshwater Habitat (Riparian Zones and Freshwater Wetlands)

Freshwater habitats include aquatic and riparian zones that contain open water areas and wetland and riparian associated vegetation. Although the riparian zone contains vegetation species that characterize or are specific to the zone, it also functions as a transitional zone between the aquatic and upland or terrestrial zones and can contain species that are also normally associated with either zone.

Vegetation: Vegetation found in freshwater habitats performs several key functions in wetland and riparian zones. The vegetation defines the number and type of wildlife habitats for many different faunal species (terrestrial and aquatic wildlife), stabilizes soil and watercourse (creek) banks, and provides nutrients to the soil. Other elements such as topography, surface water, soil and local climate also have a profound effect on the characteristics of the wetland and riparian zones. Moreover, riparian zones provide important wildlife corridors for wildlife in both urban and rural areas. Riparian vegetation that provides a rich habitat value located with the Issaquah recreational service areas include red alder, black cottonwood, big-leaf maple, willows, Oregon ash, western red cedar, Douglas fir, western hemlock, salmonberry, red-osier dogwood, Indian plum, vine maple, skunk cabbage, red huckleberry, red elderberry and wild rose.

The composition of the vegetation, type and abundance of plant species, is controlled by various elements, including the soil type, local climate, topography, and amount of surface water. In addition to these natural factors, vegetation composition is influenced by adjacent developmental land uses. The structure of the vegetation relates to how available space is occupied by the different species and the sizes of the plants. Habitat diversity is controlled by the stratification of the vegetation. Natural succession changes the structure and plant composition and can be influenced by both infrequent or catastrophic events, such as large scale flooding and scouring, and by frequent events that occur on an "everyday" basis, such as channel deposition, blow down or death of individual plants. The pattern of plant succession depends on the frequency and severity of the disruption to plant growth. This in turn affects the quality and quantity of habitat available to wildlife.

Wildlife: Because the City's recreational service areas encompass freshwater habitats from marshes, wetlands, creek corridors, ponds and lakes, many resident and migratory waterfowl inhabit the area. Round and Tradition Lakes, located within the Tradition Plateau/West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) provide habitat for the bald eagle, osprey, eared grebe, Canada goose, ruddy duck, mallard duck, wood duck, American coot, double crested cormorant, pied-billed grebe, western grebe, belted kingfisher, horned grebe, great blue heron, spotted sandpiper, northern pintail, American widgeon, northern shoveler, green-winged teal, common merganser, and bufflehead. In addition to the species listed above, riparian creek corridors in Issaquah also provide habitat for water ouzels/dippers and killdeer. Also species not normally associated with riparian areas, such as deer and bear, make extensive use of such areas for cover and food.



Habitat: The Issaquah Basin was historically a productive fish-bearing region and still produces one of the largest salmon populations in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed. Anadromous fish populations through-out the Northwest have dropped dramatically during the last several decades, most likely due to a combination of factors, such as loss of habitat including timber harvests, fish harvests, hydropower, hatcheries, sedimentation from past coal mining activities, conversion of lands to agriculture, and increased residential and commercial development.

However, as one positive, water quality in the creek improved when the City converted from individual septic systems to a sewer system. Despite the decrease in habitat values, several species of salmon utilize the Issaquah Creek for spawning and rearing. Chinook and coho salmon are considered the predominate salmonid species to inhabit Issaquah Creek. Additional species include sockeye salmon, kokanee, cutthroat and steelhead trout. Resident fish species include rainbow trout, bull trout (Dolly Varden) and mountain whitefish.

Several species of exotic (non-native) fish species utilize the lower portions of Issaquah Creek. These species were most likely introduced into Lake Sammamish and Issaquah Creek during the 1920's to create additional recreational fishing opportunities. These species include smallmouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed and brown bullhead.



Additionally, the Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) operates the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery on Issaquah Creek in Olde Town Issaquah. The hatchery intercepts Chinook and coho salmon for artificial propagation, but allows the other species of salmon to bypass the hatchery and pass upstream to spawn naturally. Also, when the hatchery has reached their quota for Chinook and coho salmon eggs, the hatchery allows the remaining salmon to pass upstream to spawn.

There are natural and man-made barriers to fish passage on Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks. Over the past ten years, the City, King County, WDFW, Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and other agencies and organizations have worked jointly or individually to remove the man-made barriers or construct improved structures in which fish can bypass the man-made barriers. In addition to the barriers, there are other threats to the freshwater habitat areas that include residential and commercial development pressure. Developments can increase the potential for sedimentation, contaminants and the removal of streamside vegetation.

Also because of existing development and development demand, there is pressure to control flood flows. The upland state forest area located on Tiger Mountain is “working” forestland. The timber harvests are regulated by the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources (WDNR) through the Forests Practices Rules and Regulations, which have decreased the adverse impacts that were once associated with timber harvests. The WDNR now requires adequate buffers to streams and creeks and requires a certain number of “leave” trees as part of the harvest plan.

Terrestrial Habitat

Terrestrial habitat consists of the upland zone or areas that are located above the water or aquatic zones. The Issaquah area is located within the designated western hemlock zone, which includes the majority of the Puget Sound Lowlands and is the most extensive vegetation zone west of the Cascade Mountains. Due to the logging and agricultural practices in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there are no “old-growth” or climax vegetation/forest communities located within the Issaquah area.

Northwest Forests: Terrestrial habitat or upland zone vegetation located within the Issaquah’s secondary service area generally consists of a mix of coniferous and deciduous forests, and scrub/shrub plant communities. Douglas fir, western red cedar and western hemlock with an associated under-story dominated by salal, vine maple, elderberry, bracken fern, and swordfern, characterizes coniferous forests in the Issaquah area.

Deciduous forests are found within the natural open space areas of the Issaquah service area and are characterized by red-alder, big-leaf maple and black cottonwood. There are three different under-story communities associated with deciduous forests. In drier areas, the deciduous forest under-story is similar to the coniferous forest under-story. A deciduous forest that is dominated by red alder has an under-story that is typically composed of swordfern, salal, Oregon grape, and Pacific bleeding hearts. Mixed coniferous/deciduous and vice versa forest stands consist of a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees. The name of the mix depends on the dominant type of tree (i.e., conifer or deciduous). The under-story of a mixed forest is also a mix of the under-story for coniferous and deciduous dominated forests.



Scrub/shrub-land plants are often considered a transitional plant association that occurs in areas cleared of forest vegetation and left to revegetate naturally. These species are considered the pioneer species that grow rapidly after the initial clearing and before the more typical species of the upland or forest plant community can re-establish itself. Shrub-land plants are often non-native species, or exotics, that are considered “opportunists” that can take advantage of a non-natural event, such as an electrical transmission corridor or other clearing of a forested area, more successfully than the native species. Usually the exotics are easily spread through wind and animal dispersal of their seeds or by sending root rhizomes. Scot’s broom and Himalayan blackberry are examples of the highly successful non-native species that occur in disturbed areas of the upland forest habitat area.

Terrestrial Wildlife: Wildlife that is affiliated with the upland or terrestrial habitat includes insects, amphibians, reptiles, and small to large mammals. Wildlife sightings within the Issaquah secondary service area range from the occasional sightings of black bear, cougar, bobcat, porcupine, river otter, black-tailed deer to the smaller more commonly observed mammals such as coyotes, striped skunk, weasel, raccoons, opossum, squirrels, voles and shrews. With continued development encroachment into

the surrounding open space areas and loss of habitat values, the larger mammals that were once abundant to the Issaquah area are now rare visitors.

Sightings of avian species include the more common passerine forest species such as flycatchers, jays, swallows, chickadees, kinglets, wrens, thrushes, warblers, sparrows, and finches. Less common species that have been observed in the area include the bald eagle, osprey and pileated woodpecker.



The public lands that surround Issaquah, the “Issaquah Alps,” provide a significant amount of wildlife habitat. Wildlife requires and utilizes refuge areas that are not subject to human disturbance and which are not fragmented from foraging and resting areas. Although public land ownership connects Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Taylor Mountains and Grand Ridge, major roadways, highways and a freeway, bisect the habitat areas. Cougar and Squak are separated by State Route 900 (Renton-Issaquah Road); the Issaquah-Hobart Road separates Squak and Tiger; and Grand Ridge is separated from

Tiger Mountain by Interstate-90. These highways and freeway impede and present hazards for wildlife movement between the mountains.

Destruction of upland or terrestrial habitat not only destroys foraging areas and cover for wildlife but can also have an adverse impact on the adjoining freshwater habitat. One of the largest threats to terrestrial habitat is conversion of this habitat type to urban and suburban uses. Active forest management also affects upland areas including timber harvesting, suppression of wildfires, road building which allows for increase public access to previously little used areas and the potential of recreational overuse, and the loss of habitat value due to development and other human related activities. If active forest management is not conducted properly, or is mismanaged, it can have a significant and adverse effect on adjacent freshwater habitat areas (i.e., wetland and riparian areas).

5.5 Priority Habitats and Species

The Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) have developed the Priority Habitats and Species Program. The program identifies those species and habitats that are of greatest concern to the WDFW and is used by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to evaluate critical habitat and proposed urban wildlife habitat projects.

Species that are listed in the inventory are either identified as state monitor, candidate, sensitive, threatened, endangered or federally threatened or endangered species. Also priority habitats are identified as those habitat types that support these species or are valuable for the diversity of species present. The program also includes management recommendations and strategies for providing suitable habitat for the listed priority species.

The priority habitats and species that are located within the Issaquah area are:

Priority Habitats

- Issaquah Creek (all forks)
- Wetlands (Freshwater)
- Riparian Areas
- Anadromous Fish Runs
- Resident Fish Reaches
- Cougar, Squak, and Tiger (partial) Mountains
- Forests

Priority Species

Great Blue Heron
Bald Eagle
Pileated Woodpecker
Tailed Frog
Anadromous Fish
Fall Chinook
Coho
Sockeye
Winter Steelhead
Resident fish
Cutthroat Trout
Kokanee Salmon



5.6 Open Space and Habitat Conservation Protection Strategies

Natural Open Space

Issaquah's primary and secondary recreation service areas contain significant open space and habitat areas. The surrounding "Issaquah Alps" contain over 25,500 acres of natural open space lands that are in public ownership. Approximately 15,000 acres of Tiger Mountain State Forest is under the jurisdiction of the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources (WDNR) with approximately 450 acres of the Tradition Plateau of West Tiger Mountain in the City's ownership. Together, the City and WDNR have designated approximately a total of 4,400 acres as the West Tiger Mountain/Tradition Plateau Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA).



The NRCA is designed to protect outstanding examples of native ecosystems, habitat for endangered, threatened and sensitive species (flora and fauna) and scenic landscapes. In addition to the NRCA designation, the City and WDNR entered into a management agreement of the designated NRCA lands where WDNR has agreed to develop and manage public recreational facilities within the NRCA. Over the past fifteen years, the WDNR has developed the High Point Trailhead and the recreational trail system for the NRCA. The WDNR and City have also implemented stewardship projects to increase habitat values for Round and Tradition Lakes.

Squak Mountain State Park encompasses approximately 1,545 acres of naturally forested land. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission manage the park as a "wilderness" park. Over the past 15 years, the park has increased in size from approximately 590 acres, the original Bullitt Family donation, to its current size. Other public lands located on Squak Mountain include approximately 90 acres in City ownership and designated Open Space with an overlying Native Growth Protection Area (NGPA). King County also owns about an additional 1,000 acres on the east and west flanks of the mountain. There are a total of approximately 2,600 acres of Squak Mountain in public ownership.

The majority of public lands located on Cougar Mountain, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, is managed by the King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks. However, the City of Issaquah owns

approximately 325 acres on the east flank of Cougar Mountain, which was dedicated as natural open space land, with a Native Growth Protection Area overlay, to the City as part of the Talus Development Project. Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park is now about 3,000 acres in size and the “Mission Statement” from the Park Management Plan states, in part:

“... As a public wildland resource it provides important wildlife habitat and opportunities for wildland recreation and education. The overall goal of the master plan is to preserve and enhance the integrity of this sensitive wildland natural resource for balanced use and enjoyment by current and future generations.”

King County’s Taylor Mountain Forest, consisting of 1,800 acres, is located to the east of Tiger Mountain State Forest and contains the headwaters to Issaquah Creek. King County manages the forest as a working forest for multiple benefits including forest/timber management, protection of ecological resources, and low-impact recreation.

Grand Ridge Park is also owned and managed by King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks. The park covers about 1,800 acres of natural open space land between the Issaquah Highlands Development and the Mitchell Hill-Preston area. In addition, the park is an open space habitat connector to Tiger Mountain State Forest to the south. King County prepared the Grand Ridge Park Plan, which provides the management objectives for the park’s natural open space and the provision of a multiple use trail. The trail will connect to the proposed Soaring Eagle Park to the north and to the Issaquah-Preston Regional Trail to the south.

A unique aspect of the “Issaquah Alps” is the interagency cooperation or partnership the four local and state agencies have formed for management of this natural open space land. The City of Issaquah, King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources have formed an interagency partnership known as the “Issaquah Alps” and Upper Snoqualmie River Valley Interagency Committee. Originally the interagency partnership was formed just for the management of the public lands located within the “Issaquah Alps” and was known as the Squak, Cougar and Tiger Mountains Interagency Committee (“SCAT” Committee). However, with similar land management and public use issues located on the public lands from Cougar Mountain to Snoqualmie Pass, the interagency committee was expanded to include the public lands located along the I-90 or Mountains to Sound Greenway corridor.

Through this interagency cooperation and partnership, land acquisition, recreational facilities development, and on-going operation and maintenance have provided more public benefit than had the agencies not cooperated with one another. Additionally, the collaborating agencies have formed partnerships with non-governmental organizations, such as the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, to reach a common land management vision for the inter-jurisdictional public lands located within the I-90 corridor/Mountains to Sound Greenway.

In addition, not only have the partner agencies been in the process of acquiring additional open space lands to provide substantial wildlife areas and refuge sites, the agencies have worked cooperatively to acquire wildlife corridors to connect the “Issaquah Alps” with other public lands located to the east and south. The City supported King County’s acquisition of Taylor Mountain Forest, which protected the headwaters of Issaquah Creek. Additionally, the City supported King County’s and the state Dept. of Natural Resources acquisition of Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area. By increasing these wildlife habitat areas, providing public open space land connectors and decreasing habitat fragmentation, the “Issaquah Alps” is again considered part of the Cascade biosphere.

5.7 Lake Sammamish/Issaquah Creek WaterWays Program (WaterWays Program)

The Issaquah Creek/Lake Sammamish WaterWays Program (WaterWays Program) is a cooperative City of Issaquah and King County program that represents a commitment to preserving the waterways located within the Issaquah Creek Basin. The two major creek systems located within the basin are Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks, including all forks and tributaries to the two creeks. The Issaquah Creek Basin was selected as a WaterWays Basin by King County in 1994. The Issaquah Creek/Lake Sammamish WaterWays Program builds upon the level of information and analysis of the County's basin selection.

The WaterWays Program includes protection and preservation strategies along the Issaquah Creek corridor from its headwaters in the Taylor Mountain Forest to its mouth at Lake Sammamish State Park, and along the Tibbetts Creek corridor from its headwaters at the former Sunset Quarry site to Lake Sammamish State and Sammamish Cove Parks. The program's goals are to protect major fish runs, provide passive or low-impact recreational opportunities, protect high quality habitat lands and scenic resources, enhance water quality, and preserve properties of cultural and historic importance.

The WaterWays Program focuses on the use of a variety of acquisition tools to achieve its goals. These include acquisition of fee simple property rights, conservation easements and donations, as well as other methods, such as conservation under the King County current use taxation program for a 10-year period. Community education and stewardship efforts are also critical to achieving widespread program goals. The WaterWays Program currently does not include funds for restoration or stewardship projects, although program stewardship goals have been achieved through grants and funding.

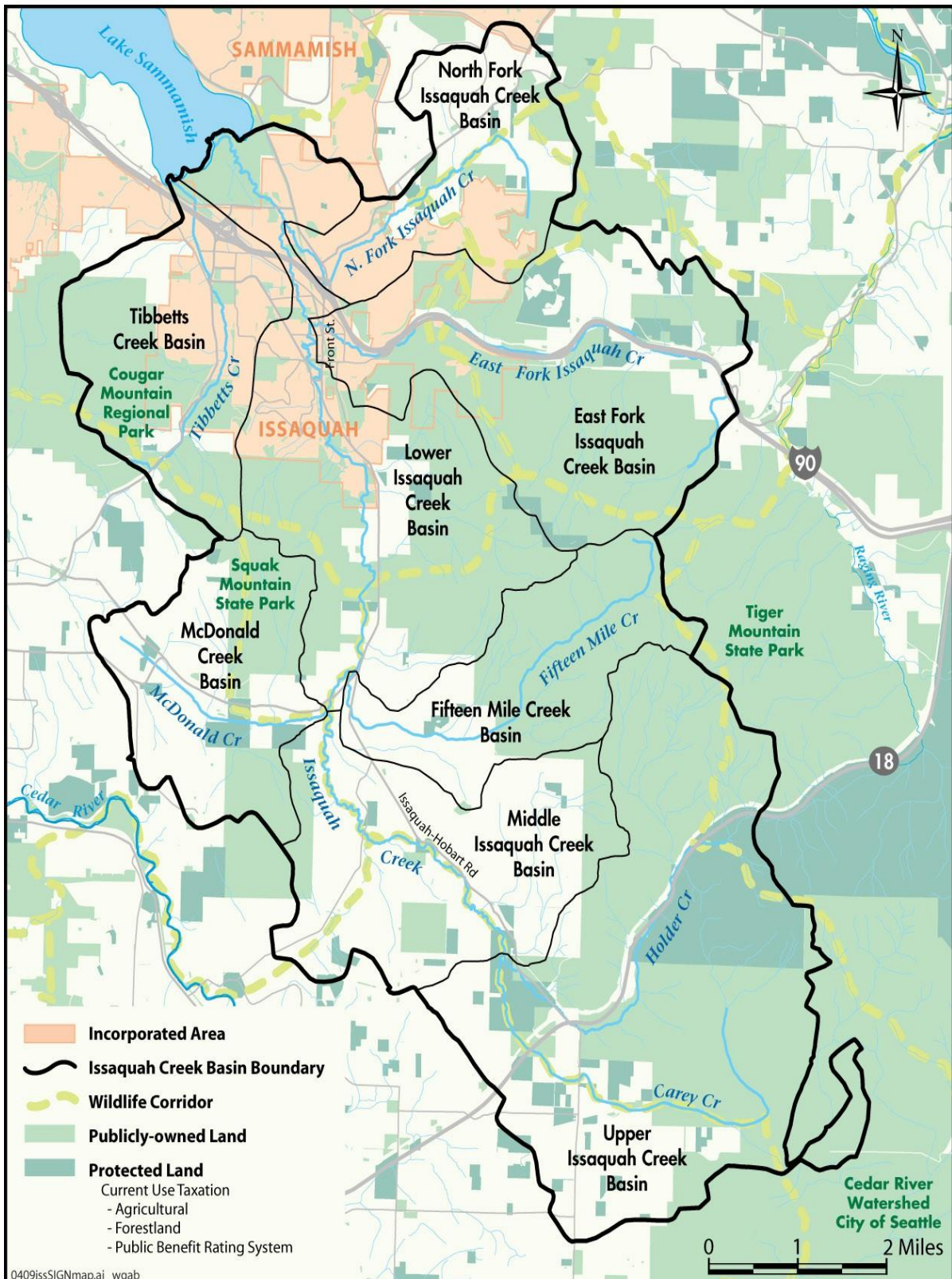
The City and County have also worked cooperatively on issues affecting waterways resources and this cooperative effort included the coordination of joint planning efforts, including the preparation of the *Issaquah Creek Basin and Non-Point Action Plan*.

The WaterWays Program is to acquire or protect resource properties, either fee or less-than-fee acquisitions that have significant aquatic and terrestrial resources in the Issaquah Creek Basin. Both the City and County have made major strides to protect creek resources in the basin through acquisitions of the Taylor Mountain Forest at the creek's headwaters; at the confluence of the east fork and main stem of Issaquah Creek; at significant reaches of the creeks, at the headwaters of Tibbetts Creek located at the former Sunset Quarry site, and setting aside a major natural open space area as part of the Talus Development on Squak and Cougar Mountains. These acquisitions complement properties that were already in public ownership located within the "Issaquah Alps" – Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Squak Mountain State Park, Lake Sammamish State Park, and Tiger Mountain State Forest. With these major land areas in public ownership, the upland watershed has improved water quality to the creeks.



Even though major strides have occurred in the protection and preserving of creek resources, there are still significant in-stream and riparian corridor sites that require protection. Additionally, the respondents of the Parks and Recreation survey noted that the protection of creek resources and provision of limited passive recreation access was important to the community. The Waterways Program provides steps to carry forward the community's desires and vision.

ISSAQUAH BASIN WILDLIFE NETWORK



5.8 WRIA #8 Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed

The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA #8), encompasses 692 square miles, is located in western Washington, east of Puget Sound, and contains three distinct Chinook salmon populations. These three populations are found in the Cedar River, North Lake Washington and Issaquah Creek, respectively. In 1999, the federal government listed the Puget Sound Chinook salmon as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The health of salmon populations are indicative of the health of the watershed. Multiple federal, state and local jurisdictions, plus business and non-profit organizations, formed a Steering Committee in order to develop a collaborative approach for the restoration and protection of the salmon populations found within the watershed. Out of this effort, the local and state jurisdictions developed the WRIA #8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan.

The WRIA #8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan focuses on conservation of Chinook salmon habitat and because local governments have the ability to protect and preserve aquatic/in-stream/riparian habitat through either fee-simple acquisitions or through ordinances. Other measures local governments can implement are through improved land use and stormwater management policies and programs.

The Conservation Plan provides Actions to protect, preserve and restore habitat in order to prevent a further decline in the Chinook salmon populations. These actions cite site specific restoration and acquisition projects through out the watershed, including the Issaquah Creek Basin.

The City has implemented many of the site specific Actions, but still needs to move forward with additional acquisitions and restoration projects in order to meet the objectives to protect the salmon as outlined in the WRIA #8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan.

5.9 Regulations and Programs

There are various local, county, state and federal rules, regulations and programs that relate to habitat protections and these are:

- City and County Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements for designating Critical Areas;
- King County Basin Plans – Issaquah Creek Basin and Nonpoint Action Plan;
- WDFW Priority Habitats and Species Program;
- Washington Endangered Species Program;
- Federal Endangered Species Program;
- Shoreline Management Act;
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA);
- Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE); and,
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules and regulations governing wetland and riparian areas.

These rules, regulations, and programs form a basis of protecting designated sensitive habitat areas and species on both private and public lands. However, to fully ensure the protection of some of the more significant habitat areas, land acquisition or placement of conservation easements has occurred within the City and on adjacent agency lands. The agencies continue to target additional acquisitions, which will provide further protection of significant habitat resources, and as identified in the WRIA #8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan.

Chapter 6

Public Involvement

The basic foundation for preparing the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (Parks Plan) is determining the appropriate Level of Service (LOS) of parks and recreation opportunities for the community. Also factored into Chapter 7 - Needs Assessment and the Parks and Recreation Standards (Level of Service) is the community's desires of recreational facilities balanced with community needs. Other factors that will influence the determination of needs are the various sociological trends that affect the community: economic trends for the region; demographic trends; technological trends; environmental trends; social trends; and, urban land use/growth patterns. These factors or trends affect the City's ability to provide parks and recreation opportunities now and into the future.

6.1 Public Participation

To identify the demand for park and recreation facilities within the City and for the preparation of this plan, the Parks and Recreation Department held two public workshops and contracted with Hebert Research to conduct a public opinion survey. Due to the changing nature of the community over the last five years, it is important to assess community recreational needs and to project future recreational needs. The information generated from the public workshops and the public opinion survey will help guide the development of recreational facilities within the community.

6.2 Public Workshops

In April 2009, the Parks and Recreation Department, with assistance from Hebert Research sponsored two public workshops, one at the Tibbetts Creek Manor and one at the City Hall/Police Station. The purpose of the workshops was to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the various services and programs the Department provides and for the public to provide 'feed-back' to the Department on what recreational programs, services and facilities would best serve the community.

At each workshop, Hebert Research also held a focus group round-table in order to obtain more specific information on the recreational needs and desires from community members. In addition, tables were set up with representatives from each of the Parks and Recreation Divisions to distribute information and answer questions about the functions of the Department. The Divisions at the workshop included: Recreation Services and Issaquah Community Center; Natural Open Space and Trails; Parks and Recreational Facilities; and, Julius Boehm Pool.

Each workshop participant was issued \$100 in "tax dollars" and was asked to distribute or allocate their "tax dollars" for the provision of parks and recreation opportunities. However, before a participant could spend their money, they were encouraged to visit each table to learn about the programs and facilities the Parks and Recreation Department offered, as described in the previous paragraph. A total of "\$1,800" was provided to the 18 participants and each participant allocated their share of the money into the various categories they felt should receive funding, as shown in the table below:

Table 6-1 Public Workshop “Tax Dollar” Allocations		
Category	Amount	Percentage
Parks & Recreational Facilities	\$500	28%
Community Center & Recreational Programs	190	10.5%
Open Space/Recreation Trails	750	41.5%
Aquatics	230	13%
Parks Maintenance*	130	7%
TOTAL	\$1,800	100%

* It should be noted that Park Maintenance was not specifically a separate category, but several workshop participants wanted to ensure that their tax dollars were spent toward maintaining parks and open space. It had been intended by staff that maintenance was included under Parks and Recreational Facilities. It shows how important the maintenance of parks and open space is to the public.

Moreover, overall comments from the participants of the workshop included:

- ♦ Large park system for the size of the city
- ♦ Parks are extremely important
- ♦ Scenic value of the parks within the city, especially the little parks on street corners
- ♦ Develop synthetic turf fields with field lighting
- ♦ Additional restrooms at parks, which could be portable toilets to save money
- ♦ Walking trails within the City’s natural open space areas, more trail signage
- ♦ Mountain bike trails are needed
- ♦ Off-leash Dog Park is needed
- ♦ Improved park signage to identify the park from the street and within the park itself
- ♦ Improved signage, especially in the natural open space areas
- ♦ Scot’s broom and other invasive/non-native plants should be removed from parks and natural open space areas
- ♦ Additional park amenities, such as benches
- ♦ Organize more volunteer events for park “clean-up” and restoration activities
- ♦ Pea patch is desirable
- ♦ Include a mix of bear-proof and regular trash cans through out the city, as needed
- ♦ City website is unhelpful about walking trails
- ♦ Top Needs: maintenance; invasive plant control, purchased large amount of property but not maintaining it, invasive plants are a problem
- ♦ Pool is old, Pool Feasibility Study for new pool identifies need for new pool
- ♦ Need maps at the trailheads
- ♦ People don’t know all of the responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Dept.; don’t know that the department also cares for all city buildings as well as the parks, community buildings, and natural open space areas.
- ♦ Need measurable standards of park development when proposed developments include park services.
- ♦ Tree canopy – urban forest management.

Because some people could not attend the workshops, the Parks and Recreation Dept. received e-mails stating the following:

- ♦ New skatepark needed, Issaquah Highlands neighborhood would be appropriate.
- ♦ Off-leash dog park
- ♦ Opportunities needed within the city for mountain bicyclists
- ♦ Need for a cricket field

6.3 Summary of Telephone Survey

In order to provide a statistically valid survey regarding the provision of parks and recreational opportunities and how people use the parks, facilities, natural open space areas within the City, the City contracted with Hebert Research to conduct a telephone survey of 400 city residents (margin of error for 400 participants is +/- 4.2%). See Appendix B – Executive Summary (Results of the Survey).

The goal of the survey and research was to identify the needs and desires for parks, open space and recreational facilities for the residents of the City of Issaquah.

The objectives to achieve this goal included:

- ♦ Identify community demand for parks, open space and recreational facilities in the City of Issaquah.
- ♦ Identify public priorities among improvements considered by the City of Issaquah.
- ♦ Determine priorities by type of project under consideration.
- ♦ Identify characteristics of segments of the community that tend to favor or not favor parks and recreation improvements.
- ♦ Consider how best to explain prospective parks and recreation improvements to achieve public understanding of improvements envisioned by the City as well as be applicable to the Parks Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- ♦ Identify the most important area(s) of parks and recreation to the residents of Issaquah.
- ♦ Determine which media outlets are most utilized by residents to gather information about parks and recreation.
- ♦ Identify which parks and recreation activities residents are most likely to participate in.

The average age of the Issaquah respondents who participated in the telephone survey was 56.7 years old and nearly two thirds of the survey respondents did not have children under the age of 18 live in their household. When asked if parks and recreation was important to themselves and their family, nearly 66% said that parks and recreation was very important.

Of the survey respondents, 88% had visited parks, trails, the community center or other recreational facilities in the last year and more than 59% were very satisfied with the City's parks.



Of the favorite park activities, 28% of the respondents chose walking as their favorite activity. The second highest activity at 14.5% was taking their children or grandchildren to the park. Another favorite activity was walking the dog. Other activities included picnicking, swimming, and active sports such as hiking, biking, tennis, basketball, baseball.

Over half the respondents indicated that open space within the parks system was of very high importance (52.6%). And of the two types of trails within Issaquah, urban/paved and open space, about 60.5% of the respondents used the open space trails. Again, walking (38%) was the most popular use of the

trails, with hiking at 25.3%, the next most popular use. Respondent use of the Issaquah Community Center focused on the Concerts on the Green during the summer months and programs within the center, including youth basketball, adult exercise programs, youth soccer, day camps and middle school dances. Respondents provided a very high overall satisfaction rate (57.3%) with the community center.

For the Julius Boehm Pool, about 25% of the city respondents use the pool. Lap swimming, swim lessons, water exercise classes, birthday parties and swim team were all listed as important use activities at the pool. Open swim for families was also an important use at the pool. More than a third of the respondents were very satisfied with the condition of the pool.

The Issaquah Farmer's Market is a very high draw for parks and recreation provided activities. More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the respondents (76.3%) said they attend the market and nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ (63.4%) were very satisfied with the market.

Another important aspect of providing parks and recreation facilities is the condition of the park's sports fields and trails. About 60% of the respondents were very satisfied with the condition and upkeep of the sports fields.



For the quality of the City's trails, nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ (62.7%) were very satisfied with the condition of the City's trail system. About 44.5% were very satisfied with trail signage.

When asked to rate one area of the parks system that the respondents would like to see increased (improved), the most common response was more parks and open space areas (28%). Improvement to the trails system was ranked next (26%) with improvement to the Julius Boehm Pool a very close third (21.5%). The next most important improvement was the provision of more sports fields (15%).



A factor in the provision of neighborhood parks is the distance a respondent would walk with their child or grandchild to a park. Approx. 19% said they would walk $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and approx. 25% said they would walk $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to a park. 19% said they would even walk a mile to park. This shows the importance of providing neighborhood parks for city residents.

To determine the importance of parks and recreation for people's health and fitness, about one half (49%) responded that parks and recreational facilities are very important in helping meet their health and fitness objectives.

Lastly, the survey questioned the respondents on their overall satisfaction with the Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department. As a whole, 59% were very satisfied with the department and that people were happy with recreational facilities and programs offered by the department.

Again, for a comprehensive look at the survey questions and responses, see Appendix B Executive Summary, by Hebert Research.

6.4 Public Process

In preparing the Parks Plan, several public workshops and meetings were scheduled in order to provide the public an opportunity to voice their opinions, review and comment on the preparation of the proposed Parks Plan. Each public meeting was advertised in the Issaquah Press, Issaquah Reporter, the City's Website and Channel 21 (Government Access Channel) in order to promote public comment. Additionally, the City contracted with Hebert Research for the development and implementation of a statistically valid telephone public opinion survey. During the public workshops, Hebert Research also worked with two focus groups in order to develop more in-depth information. The Parks and Recreation Board, Public Policy Commission, and Issaquah City Council also held meetings to review the Draft Parks Plan.

In addition, the Parks Plan complies with State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) requirements. An Environmental Checklist was completed and a Determination of Non-Significance was issued on September 9, 2009. A Notice of Adoption pursuant to Washington Administrative Code was issued December 8, 2009, Ordinance #2566, and effective December 21, 2009.

As stated previously, the Parks Plan was presented and discussed at a series of public meetings held by Parks staff, Parks and Recreation Board, Planning and Policy Commission, and the Issaquah City Council. With the public input, the draft Parks Plan was modified in response to the comments.

The workshops and meetings provided an opportunity for the public to become familiar with the Parks and Recreation Department and the programs and services the Department provides the community. Moreover, the public was offered an opportunity to voice their comments on what facilities, services and programs they felt would benefit the community.

Process toward Plan Adoption:

- *Park Board review of Working Draft of the Parks Plan;*
- *Park Board approval of the Draft Parks Plan;*
- *Planning Policy Commission recommendation to the Issaquah City Council;*
- *Issaquah City Council review of the Draft Parks Plan;*
- *Services Committee and/or Land Use Committee review and recommendation to the Council;*
- *Issaquah City Council adopts the Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan, including the Executive Summary, which is the Parks Element of the Issaquah Comprehensive Plan.*

Chapter 7

Needs Assessment – Level of Service (LOS) Standards

7.1 Level of Service

The City of Issaquah measures its Level of Service (LOS) through its per capita investment per person. When new residential development is approved, a parks and recreation impact fee is assessed per unit to offset the recreational needs associated with the development. This provides a flexible approach for the provision parks and recreational facilities for city residents.

In comparison to the City approach for providing an acceptable LOS for city residents, the National Park and Recreation Association publishes general guidelines for park system planning for communities. A community typically provides a basic public service infrastructure, such as schools, water, sewer, roads, fire and police protection, and parks for its residents. Along with these infrastructure needs and expectations, the national LOS standards are provided only as a comparison with the City's adopted LOS as contained in the Park Impact Fee Rate Study (Appendix A). By utilizing the national LOS for comparison, this leads to developing appropriate service areas to meet community needs. Parks and recreation services also fall into the category of providing adequate public services or infrastructure to meet the needs of community within its service area.



Historically, the basic park standard of providing ten (10) acres of parkland per 1000 people was the accepted standard among park professionals. This standard was further defined to include the different recreational facilities to be developed within the park areas. Since development of this standard, park professionals have come to realize that each community is unique, has different values, and that the LOS guidelines are “a quantification of the park and recreation delivery philosophy and policy of a community.”

Moreover, other changes in community concepts of parks and recreation facilities included the stewardship of open space land, water resources, and historical and cultural resources. This provided Parks and Recreation Departments the opportunity to expand their recreational services from the provision of active sports recreational facilities, such as athletic fields and playgrounds, to the provision of passive recreational opportunities on these natural open space lands. It also furthered the opportunity for Parks and Recreation to provide interpretive and environmental education facilities to increase the public's awareness of an area's natural resources.

With the expansion of providing parks and recreational facilities, the level of service provided to the community evolved from the “absolute” to planning for parks and recreational services to meet the community's needs.

Furthermore, and in June 2008, the state Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) prepared and released the document “Defining and Measuring Success: The Role of State Government in Outdoor Recreation.” The purpose of the document is “to help decision-makers better understand the most important recreation issues statewide.”

The document provides a level of service approach to measuring the state’s investment in recreation and “developed two preliminary level of service tools, one addressing state agency sites and facilities, and one addressing local agency sites and facilities.”

From their research, local governments tend to be service and facility driven (i.e., recreation programming, sports fields, pools, trails, etc.) which make these activities and provision of recreational facilities important to local jurisdictions. Residents want recreational opportunities that are close to home; support activities that promote health and wellness; and, “personal mobility” meaning paths and trails that are for walking and bicycling.

These findings are supported by a 2007 statewide survey that shows walking-hiking as the number 1 activity followed by team – individual sports. The survey ranked 15 types of recreational activities (Table 7-3 Current Recreation Participation – Defining and Measuring Success Recreation and Conservation Office [June 2008]).

The findings also encourage local agencies to review community needs and resources, including public school playgrounds, and assess how well their trails and parks are functioning and where additional investments are needed to improve service and provision of facilities.



Through the telephone survey conducted for the City of Issaquah by Hebert Research (see Chapter 6 – Public Involvement), the city resident responses are consistent with the findings of the state Recreation and Conservation Office that the provision of walking/hiking trails are important as well as the provision of sports fields. Residents want to see the provision of a well-balanced parks and recreation system that meets the needs of all age groups.

7.2 City of Issaquah - Level of Service

In June 2008, the City of Issaquah adopted Ordinance No. 2524 to add the Rate Study for Park and Recreation Facilities amending the IMC Section 3.2.040 and 3.72.070 to establish an updated Parks Impact Fees (Appendix A) and as defined in Table 7-1 - Level of Service Standard.

The City of Issaquah’s level of service standards for parks is determined through the application of a formula that measures overall parks investment per person. This “investment per capita” method is used to measure parks and recreation levels of service for the City’s park and recreation facilities within the City limits.

The “investment per capita” method provides the city with a flexible approach to providing park and recreational facilities. By using the total capital investment per person figure, the City is able to provide facilities that are most appropriate for each site without being required to maintain arbitrary ratios for each type of facility at each park site. This method also provides the City the flexibility to be responsive to changing park needs.

Table 7-1 Level of Service Standard lists the types of land and facilities included as part of the Park Level of Service in the June 2008 document. Although it lists most of park and recreation facilities that make up Issaquah's park system, it was not all inclusive.

The level of service is defined as the capital investment per person and is calculated by multiplying the capacity of parks and recreational facilities times the average cost of those items:

Value of Parks and Recreational Facilities Inventory	Divided by Service Population	Equals Capital Investment per person
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The value of the existing inventory of parks and recreational facilities is calculated by determining the value of each park as well as each recreational facility. The sum of all of the values equals the current value of the City's parks and recreational system.

Capital Investment per Person

The capital value of each type of park land or recreational facility is calculated in the final column by multiplying the inventory for each component by the average cost per unit for that component. The capital value for all recreational facilities, park land, and committed mitigation in the inventory comes to a total of \$116,387,328. This total is divided by the service population of 26,837 for the City and provides the current capital value per person of \$4,336.82.

Value Needed for Growth

To determine and calculate a value for future parks and recreational facility needs as the City's population increases, the capital investment per person is multiplied by the City's future growth.

Capital Investment per Person	Forecast Population Growth	Value Needed for Growth
\$4,336.82	Multiplied by 451	\$1,955,907

The forecast for population growth is estimated annually as part of Issaquah's long range planning process. The forecast for population growth by 2011 is 451 people. The formula shows the calculation of the value of parks and recreational facilities needed for the growth. The value needed that is needed to serve the growth is \$1,955,907.

Investment Needed for Growth

The third step in the process is to determine the amount the City needs to invest to address any park and/or recreation deficiencies.

Investment Needed for Growth	Value of Existing Reserve Capacity	Minimum Investment to be Paid by Growth
\$1,995,907	-0-	\$1,955,907

As the table shows, the City has no reserve capacity and therefore needs to invest \$1,995,907 in additional parks and recreational facilities in order to serve future growth. The future investment in parks and recreational facilities to be paid by growth may be less than \$1,995,907 if the City designates other revenues to invest in parks and recreational facilities.

**Table 7-1
Level of Service Standards**

Type of Park or Facility** (Alphabetical order and based on existing facilities in 2006)	Unit Level		Average Cost per Unit (in dollars)	Capital Value
Amphitheater	amphitheater	1	435,204	\$435,204
Baseball Field	field	5	150,000	\$750,000
Basketball Court	court	2.5	60,000	\$150,000
Community Center	square foot	56,905	300	\$17,071,500
Land - Active	acre	190.70	209,860	\$40,020,302
Land – Passive/Natural	acre	1,283.78	22,231	\$28,539,713
Land – Unstructured Recreation	acre	41.96	121,678	\$5,105,609
Play Lot/Tot Lot	lot	7	100,000	\$700,000
Senior Center (square foot cost)	square foot	8,000	300	\$2,400,000
Skateboard Park	park	1	250,000	\$250,000
Soccer Field	field	3	200,000	\$600,000
Softball Field	field	4	150,000	\$600,000
Swimming Pool - Indoor	pool	1	9,000,000	\$9,000,000
Tennis court	court	4	60,000	\$240,000
Trails - Recreation	mile	9	700,000	\$6,300,000
Trails - Urban	mile	5	700,000	\$3,500,000
Trailhead	trailhead	5	75,000	\$375,000
Committed Mitigation				\$350,000
Total Capital Value				\$116,387,328
Population***				26,837
Capital Value per Person*				\$4,336.82

*The City of Issaquah's capital value per person is the standard the City uses to ensure that each resident receives an equitable amount of parks and recreational facilities. The City provides this value by investment in parks and recreational facilities that are most appropriate for each site and which respond to the changing needs and priorities as the City grows and the demographics and needs of the population changes.

**The inventory listed in Table 7.1 is for the year 2006, and includes park land acquired through annexations by March 2, 2006.

*** The service population includes the 2006 City population (19,571), Greenwood Point annexation (3,712 as of 2006) and the 2011 population of Highlands (2,258) and Talus (1,296).

7.3 Investment to be Paid by Growth

The last step is to determine the investment to be paid by growth. The investment to be paid by growth is calculated by subtracting the amount of any revenues the City invests in parks and recreation infrastructure from the total investment in parks and recreational facilities needed for growth. City investment in parks is offset to some degree by developer contributions, impact fees, grants and other contributions.

Impact fee rate calculations must recognize and take into account revenues, which are earmarked or prorated to projects that are funded with impact fees. The City of Issaquah has historically used local revenues, such as real estate excise tax, councilmanic bonds and other revenues within the City's Capital Improvement Fund and General Fund to pay for part of the cost of park and recreational facility capital costs. The City's investment has averaged 44% of the cost of capital improvement projects for parks and recreational facilities (*see Rate Study*).

These revenues are accounted for by reducing the investment needed for growth in the fourth formula for computing impact fees. These reductions are the "adjustments" required by law for future taxes or other payments.

Revenues that are used for repair, maintenance or operating costs are not used to reduce impact fees because they are not used, earmarked or prorated for the system improvements that are the basis of the impact fees. Revenues for payments of past taxes paid on vacant land prior to development are not included because new capital projects do not have prior costs; therefore prior taxes did not contribute to such projects.

Investment Needed for Growth	City Investment for Growth (44%)	Minimum Investment to be Paid by Growth
\$1,955,907	\$860,599	\$1,095,308

The table shows the calculation of the investment in parks and recreational facilities that needs to be paid by growth. Column 1 lists the investment in parks and recreational facilities needed to serve growth. Column 2 shows the value of City investment for growth (calculated at 44% of the investment needed for growth), and column 3 is the remaining investment in parks and recreational facilities that should be paid by growth.

Future Needs

A parks and recreation impact fee will be collected from new growth to provide for parks and facilities needed to support this additional growth. The City's annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will incorporate park and facility needs as needed by the community.

The table above shows that growth in Issaquah would need to invest \$1,095,308 for additional parks and recreational facilities to maintain the City's standards for future growth projected to the year 2011 by the 2006 based Rate Study (See Appendix A - Rate Study for Impact Fees for Parks and Recreational Facilities). As mentioned previously, the assessment for future growth is re-evaluated by the Planning Dept. during the Comprehensive Plan Amendment process.

7.4 Parks and Recreation Service Areas

The Parks Plan contains two Parks and Recreation Service Areas: the Primary Service Area coincides with the Issaquah's city limits and the Secondary Service Area generally follows the Issaquah School District Boundary, but excludes that portion of the school district located in the City of Bellevue. Although the Secondary Service Area also includes the City of Sammamish, the Parks and Recreation Dept. still includes it because many of our youth and adult participants/customers come from the Sammamish Plateau area.

The City of Issaquah serves a larger population base for use of its park and recreation facilities, services and programs than just its city residents. Many residents from other communities around Issaquah, especially ones served by the Issaquah School District, participate in or use the City's parks, facilities, services, and programs. Informal review of "Drop-In" recreational users shows that the Issaquah Community Center is used by non-residents: those who work within Issaquah but live outside of the community. As other communities and neighborhoods grow within the Secondary Service Area, this will put additional pressure on Issaquah's facilities; however, these users do not provide tax or impact fee funding for the development of additional facilities.

7.5 Needs Assessment

Although the City's Level of Service is determined by the "Rate Study for Impact Fees for Parks and Recreational Facilities," it is worth noting and comparing recreational level of service standards with the National Recreation Park Association (NRPA) standards and what the Parks and Recreation Dept. discovered during the public opinion process.

Based on their community's recreational needs, many states, counties, and cities have developed and use their own developed standards. The NRPA has developed a broad base look at park and recreation needs for Level of Service Standard (LOS), which reviews the existing recreational facilities and compares the number of facilities to the number of residents within the community. As many of the field or facility quantity recommendations have not increased with the popularity of the activity, it is important to look at the overall community need in relation the amount of users. Table 7-2 illustrates how the City of Issaquah compares to other recommended or national standards to current levels of use.

Table 7-2 Comparison of National Standards with Existing Developed Parks and Facilities			
FACILITY TYPE	FACILITY STANDARD	EXISTING CITY OF ISSAQUAH FACILITY	COMMENTS (26,890 population basis)
Neighborhood Park	*2.0 acres per 1000 pop. or 52 acres.	1.7 acres per 1000 pop. or 44 acres	-0.3 acres per 1000 pop. or 8 acres short of standard.
	½ mile service radius	9 developed City Parks.	NE, NW and S areas of City require new or improved neighborhood park facilities.
Community Park	*5.0 acres per 1000 pop. or 130 acres	2.0 acres per 1000 pop. or 70 acres.	-3.0 acres per 1000 pop. or 60 acres short of standard.
	2 mile service radius	2 developed Community Parks.	
Baseball/Softball Fields	*1 field per 5,000 population or 5.3 fields.	6 existing baseball/softball fields	User needs exceed the standard and existing fields.
Soccer Fields **Football Fields	*1 field per 2000 population or 13 fields	2 multiple-use synthetic turf field; 3 mod-sized fields (City rents additional field space from the Issaquah Soccer Club at Lake Sammamish State Park)	-8 fields for City programs.
Basketball Courts	1 court per 5,000 population or 5.3 courts.	2.5 courts	-2.8 courts. The Community Center provides 3 multiple use courts which can be set up for basketball.
Tennis Courts	*1 outdoor court per 2,000 pop. or 7.5 courts.	8 courts.	1 court per 2000 pop. (The High School also has outdoor courts).
Play Areas	1 per 2,000 population or 13 play areas	9 play areas.	- 4 Play Areas.
Volleyball Courts	*1 indoor court per 2,000 pop. or 7.5 courts.	0 courts per 2,000 pop. or 0 indoor courts.	Community Center provides indoor multi-purpose courts – these courts can be set up for volleyball.

	*1 outdoor court per 5,000 pop. or 3 courts.	No existing outdoor courts.	User demand has not supported development of outdoor courts.
Recreation/Community Center	*1 per 25,000 population	1 center	Community Center meets standards.
Swimming Pool Indoor or Outdoor	*1 per 20,000 population	1 pool.	User needs exceeds standards – improved facility desired & needed.
Trails	Standards vary from 1 mi per 2,000 pop to 4 mi per 1,000 pop.	12.4 miles paved and unpaved	Trails a desired recreational amenity according to survey results.
Open Space	50 acres per 1,000 population	Approx. 1,300 acres	No current deficit but desired community amenity according to survey results.
Golf Course	*1 per 25,000 pop.	none	Requires 100 acres – user demand has not supported development of a golf course.
Skateboard Park	No standard exists	1 skateboard park	Current facility meets current needs; new skateborad park needed to replace existing park.
Amphitheater	No standard exists	1 facility	Current facility meets current needs.
Senior Center	1 center per 50,000 population	1 facility	Facility is adequate for current needs.

* Facility standard recommended from National and other City Park and Recreation Plans, other County and City plans for comparisons.

** City of Issaquah has no current football program, outside clubs/programs use available fields.

Table 7-2 includes most of the park and recreational facilities that exist in Issaquah. Through analysis of the community service standards and comparing those standards to existing park facilities, it is therefore possible to derive where park facility deficits occur.

In addition, information was gathered from user groups, including sports clubs and activity organizations, in order to determine the number of participants, facilities being used, growth potential, and other factors that would affect facility development and use. The difficulty in assessing the needs for the City is the fact that many people from outside the primary service area (City limits), but live within the Secondary Service Area also use and are dependent on the City's recreational facilities.

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) surveyed state residents on their recreational activities, through the “Defining and Measuring Success: The Role of State Government in Outdoor Recreation.” The State Legislature funds and invests millions of dollars in recreational facility development through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), which is administered through a competitive grant process by the state RCO.

The state RCO survey demonstrates what recreational activities people pursue state-wide. It is interesting to note that many of the same activities rated by the City’s public opinion survey are very similar to the statewide survey. The provision of urban and open space trails to promote walking and bicycling, and even non-motorized transportation corridors for commuting, rated very high in both surveys. Additionally, the provision of youth oriented recreational facilities, from play structures to sports facilities, are also an important element for the provision of adequate recreational facilities for the community.

Table 7-3: Current Recreation Participation – “Defining and Measuring Success Recreation and Conservation Office” (June 2008)		
Rank	Percentage	Reported in 2007
1	73.8%	Walking – hiking
2	69.2%	Team – individual sports
3	53.9%	Nature Activity - photography, gardening
4	46.8%	Picnicking
5	45.1%	Indoor Community Facility Activity
6	36%	Water activities
7	35.4%	Sightseeing
8	30.9%	Bicycle riding
9	17.9%	ORV use
10	17.5%	Snow-ice activities
11	17.1%	Camping
12	15.2%	Fishing
13	7.3%	Hunting-shooting
14	4.3%	Equestrian activities
15	4.0%	Air activities

7.6 Facilities Shortfall

Upon review of the existing facilities as measured against current national level of service standards (Table 7-2) and community needs, it appears that Issaquah currently falls short in its supply of both facilities and acreage. Combining the acreages for community and neighborhood parks, there is a shortfall of about 68 acres of park land (community and neighborhood parks).

Further review of park categories and facilities shows that much of the deficit is in the supply of community and neighborhood parks. There are a number of neighborhoods and new urban villages where private small residential parks are provided; however, these facilities are not considered public parks and generally not available for public use. These parks or their acreage is not calculated in the neighborhood park shortfall.

Acreage from school facilities is also not subtracted from the shortfall even though the City has an Interlocal Agreement for the use of school facilities. Again, because the City does not have primary and unlimited use of these outdoor or indoor facilities, the outdoor or school yard and indoor facilities were not included in the available amount of park space.

On the plus side, the City meets the current national Level of Service standards for the provision of Open Space; however, the community stressed, through the public opinion surveys, the importance of increasing protection and preservation of open space and wildlife habitat, especially along Issaquah Creek.

The need for development of additional park facilities is clear. However, most of this available or undeveloped land will be developed over the next 5 to 10 years and may not include active recreational sports facilities. Additional park land is needed to meet these sports facilities requirements. It will be important to look at the provision of adequate park land and recreational facilities when development projects are proposed.

Due to Issaquah's continued population growth from new residential developments and annexation of more areas into the City, future community park service needs will require an even greater effort to meet the City's desired Level of Service. It is important to balance property acquisition and recreational facility development, in order to ensure that as the population of Issaquah increases, current and future recreational needs are met.

Also, it is important to identify the areas of the City where park facilities are needed. Many national and community standards determine their level of service on the distance from a neighborhood or community park rather than number of acres per 1,000 population. These standards show a ½ mile radius for neighborhood parks and a two-mile radius for community parks. However there are two neighborhoods, Issaquah Highlands and Talus Developments, where different standards were adopted through the Development Agreements for the development. For example, the Issaquah Highlands Development adopted a standard, because it was approved as an urban village, where community parks shall be within at least a one-mile radius from each residence.

In reviewing development proposals and the cumulative impact of smaller developments, it will be important review where and what type of recreational facility needs are required. The assessment of recreational impact fees allows the City the flexibility of determining where those facilities should be developed to offset the development's impacts on recreational services and where those services should be located.

Neighborhood Parks

Using the neighborhood parkland standard of 2.0 acres/1,000 population within a ½ mile service area radius, there is currently a shortage of 4 parks or 8 developed acres for the community. This means that several City neighborhoods have inadequate access to a City park. Because Issaquah has been adding neighborhood park elements, such as children's play structures, into the design of the City's community parks, the shortage of acreage for this one type of park can be misleading. In addition, the urban villages and larger housing developments often supply their residents with private small parks and green spaces, which will serve as their neighborhood parks. The overall goal would be to fill the voids in the park service plan area.

Community Parks

When applying the community park standard of 5-acres/1,000 population within a 2-mile service radius, there is a current shortage of 60 developed park acres within the City. However, the City has modified the definition of Community Parks to a relatively large size of 5 to 30 acres which allows the ability to provide a variety of athletic activities at the park. With the larger developments, such as urban villages, it would be appropriate to locate or include a large community park as part of the development. It would be appropriate through Development Agreements or through the assessed impact fees for new development, that community parks and facilities be planned as part of the residential development in order to offset the increased desire for recreational facilities. In the past, the City has negotiated land dedications and/or mitigation fees from residential developments that resulted in the development of community park space.

Baseball/Softball Fields

Although in Table 7.1 it appears that the City meets the national level of standards for baseball/softball fields, there is an escalating demand on existing fields by Parks Department and community group programs. There is a shortage of field space for youth athletic practices and games. While the increase of fields in future community parks will decrease the deficit for this type of facility, the user demand exceeds the standards for these types of recreational facilities. Teams are also using school baseball fields. Again, some of these school fields are in need of renovation, which could be completed in partnership with the City of Issaquah and Issaquah School District.



Soccer Fields

Soccer is one of the fastest growing sports in the country according to the Parks and Recreation Department and Issaquah Soccer Club (ISC). The growth is occurring in all age groups, even into the adult age group. Currently, the City offers a spring youth soccer program, which has grown to over 1,500 participants. The Issaquah Soccer Club exceeded 3,500 players in their 2009 fall program. The City provides multiple-use fields as well as three mod-sized fields for soccer. Given the demand, more sports fields are needed.

Outdoor Basketball Courts

Outdoor basketball in Issaquah can be problematic with changing weather conditions. With the popularity of sport, it does not deter the desire for a pick up game with friends or shooting some hoops with the kids. Portable basketball stanchions are seen through-out City neighborhoods on driveways and at the edge of curbs. The Level of Service standards call for 1 court/5,000 population. The City falls short of this requirement by about 3 courts. To meet community demand, it would be appropriate to provide a half basketball court in every neighborhood park and a full court in every community park.

Tennis Courts

The first set of four City owned tennis courts was opened to the public in 2002 at Tibbetts Valley Park. With the Issaquah Highlands Project, another four courts were added at Black Nugget and Central Parks, which brings the total number of City courts to eight. The level of service standards show that the City should have 7.5 courts to serve its current population. Although the City currently meets the national LOS, one of the desires expressed by the public is to have some of these courts lighted for extended hours of play, especially for after work.



Play Areas

The current level of service standard for play areas is 1 play area per 2,000 population or 13 play areas based on the City's population of 26,320. The City currently has nine play areas, located at community and neighborhood parks through-out the city. Through review of the public opinion surveys and community meetings, there is a need to provide multi-age appropriate play structures. National guidelines suggest a mixture of, and/or, separate structures. One set would be for toddler through five years of age. These play structures would have lower decks, smaller slides, less height and climbing, more make believe, and less challenging apparatus. A second structure should be provided for older children, six through twelve years of age. These structures would have more climbing, upper body movement equipment, decks and slides at higher levels for the thrill rides, and more challenging movements.

An objective for the City is to install a new play structure/area at every park, with multiple play areas at the larger community parks that could accommodate the two targeted age groups. With the construction of new parks and recreational facilities, more new play areas with multi-age equipment will be included. To further offset the need for play areas, secondary play structures could be installed at Tibbetts Valley Park.

Additionally, a play area has been suggested for the Pickering Farm facility, which would add a play area to the north side of Interstate 90.

Volleyball Courts

Issaquah does not have developed outdoor volleyball courts. However, there are numerous areas within the neighborhood and community parks where portable volleyball courts can be set up for leisure play. If the popularity grows for outdoor volleyball, the City may research possible sites for volleyball facilities within existing parks.

Skate Park

Issaquah has one Skate Park located next to and south of the Issaquah Community Center. The park was built through a cooperative effort between the community and City. The site was selected by the users/proponents for the park; however, unforeseen at the time, the site is located in a poorly visible area which has created security problems. Illegal activities and vandalism have occurred by a minority of users and has given the Skate Park a negative reputation.

To offset the negative aspects of the current Skate Park, it would be appropriate to build a new park in a more visible and secure area. The park should be built to accommodate beginner to intermediate skill levels this would make it accessible for all ages. A new skate park should be considered in the Issaquah Highlands or downtown to deter the use of the hills, curbs, and the park furniture by skateboarders.

Dog Parks

A “Dog Park” is considered an area for people to exercise their dog or dogs “off-leash.” These parks can be as small as about an acre to multiple acres in size. With the increased housing density in the urban villages, and the reduction of yard size, residents have identified the need for space to exercise their pets’ off-leash.

Some local jurisdictions maintain these areas, such as at King County’s Marymoor Park, and other “Dog Parks” are maintained by clubs or organizations in the area. The Issaquah Highlands Homeowner’s Association (HOA) provides an off-leash dog area near Grand View named “Bark Park.” The City of Issaquah is researching the matter and has not dedicated any City owned land for a future Dog Park.

In relation to the provision of a “Dog Park,” issues such as maintenance costs, liability to people and other dogs, diseases, potential adverse impacts to natural resources and environmental quality (such as impacts to water quality, destruction of native vegetation or landscaping), and compatibility with adjoining park facilities or private property shall be thoroughly reviewed and addressed as part of any site selection and/or site design of a proposed "Dog Park" or "off-leash" area within a park. This review will take place consistent with the required legislative and administrative processes of the City.

Other Park Amenities

Participants in the community “needs” evaluation process and public opinion survey were asked: What types of park facilities and amenities are most needed in Issaquah parks? The most important feature was restrooms and benches. For neighborhood and community parks, restrooms should be a part of each park development. Other features such as picnic shelters and tables were not as high of a priority of the respondents. To make a park successful and enjoyable by users, other basic park amenities should be included in every neighborhood park and possibly in multiple locations in community parks. These other park amenities include: benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, bike racks, picnic tables, possibly barbecues, and picnic shelters.

Recreation/Community Center

When applying the standard of one recreation/community center per 20,000 population, the City of Issaquah meets this standard. However, as with most of its parks and recreational facilities, Issaquah’s Community Center serves not only the City residents, but many non-residents.



The Community Center includes: a large recreation multi-purpose room with three courts for basketball, volleyball, exercise classes, etc. There is also walking/jogging track, exercise equipment, youth center and a meeting room, which can be rented, located upstairs.

The Recreation Division reports that a majority of non-residents use the community center during the “Drop-In” or daytime hours; this leads to the assumption that those who work in Issaquah and live elsewhere use the center more often than the City residents. The Issaquah Community Center is also a favorite rental for weddings, large gatherings, shows, and dances. During the summertime the “Issaquah Green” located in front of the Community Center is host to the summer concert program every Tuesday night for eight weeks. Respondents to the public survey indicated that the Concerts on the Green is a particularly favorite use/activity at the community center.

Because of this heavy use, and although the City currently meets the national standards for provision of a community center, there is a need to expand the Center to offer more activities and classes, and move and expand exercise equipment area to a separate room. This would allow the exercise room to be open during rental events. A second community center located north of Interstate 90 may be appropriate to meet the needs of the city residents living north of the freeway.

Swimming Pool - Outdoor/Indoor

Issaquah has one indoor Aquatic Center, the Julius Boehm Pool. With passage of the 1968 Forward Thrust capital improvement bond initiative by Seattle and King County voters, the emphasis on recreation yielded to acquisition of park sites and construction of facilities, particularly swimming pools. In 1974 a pool was opened in Issaquah. The pool was named after Julius Boehm for his contribution toward the construction of the pool. In 1994 the pool was conveyed by King County to the City of Issaquah with a set amount of funds for maintenance and operations.



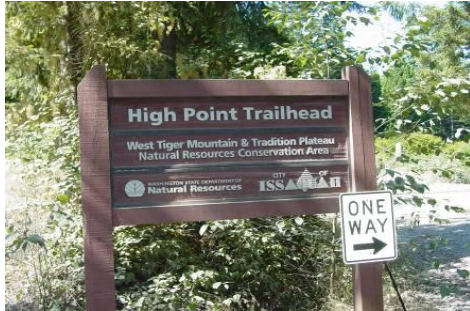
Currently the pool receives about 400 visitors per day, Monday through Saturday, for various programs, lessons, swim teams, dive teams, school programs, and school swim meets. The original lifespan of the Aquatic Center was 25 years. The City has continually replaced equipment and refurbished the center. In 2002, the pool was re-lined with a new plaster and tile surface. There are additional improvements and repairs required to the entire facility in order to meet current standards.

Response to the public opinion survey during the Pool Feasibility Study indicated the City should completely renovate or build a new aquatic center. The aquatic center should include a new state of the art facility with a warm water therapy pool, lap lanes and other features. With King County closing their pools in the greater Eastside area, more people from outside the City’s service areas are using an already over-used and out-dated pool facility.

Recreational Trails and Trailheads – The Trailhead City

The intra-city trails are the basis for the creation of a non-motorized oriented community where walking and riding bicycles are safe and convenient methods of travel throughout the city. The City’s integrated network of trails provide cross city corridors including the Rainier Multiple Use Trail, the Maple-Juniper Multiple Use Trail, the Sammamish Multiple Use Trail, the Pickering Multiple Use Trail and King County’s East Lake Sammamish and Issaquah – Preston Regional Trails. Additionally, the High Point Trailhead and neighborhood access points located through-out the City provide parking and access to the surrounding “Issaquah Alps” open space trail system.

As shown in the public opinion surveys, trails ranked highly as a recreational resource for city and non-city residents. Pedestrians and bicyclists require safe, convenient and direct routes to link neighborhoods, schools, and the City's commercial districts. In addition, the survey showed that residents valued trails



that linked the natural open space areas located within the City as well as connecting to the broader open space trail system located in the "Issaquah Alps."

As based upon the level of service standards within Table 7-1, the City currently meets and exceeds the level of service standards for the provision of trails and trailheads. However, based upon the public survey, residents have indicated that a safe internal trail system is required and additional trails and trail connections are needed to meet their use needs.

Natural Open Space

The City presently owns approximately 1,311 acres of natural open space. Table 7-1 Level of Service Standards calls for the provision of 1,300 acres of open space for the City's current population of 26,890. The City presently meets this standard. However, it should be noted that the public opinion survey and the Issaquah City Council goals have stressed the importance of preserving and protecting natural open space and wildlife corridors along Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks and between Cougar, Squak, Tiger Mountains and Grand Ridge. The protection of the aquatic and riparian corridors not only protects the habitat values of those species dependent on the creek system (e.g., anadromous fish), but it also provides an opportunity to view these resources through out the city. The City's proposed acquisition strategies, facility development program and trail system reflects Council direction.

Rental Facilities

In addition to recreational facilities, Issaquah has three unique and popular rental facilities: the Tibbetts Creek Manor; the Issaquah Community Center; and, the Pickering Barn at the Pickering Farm. These facilities offer rental space to groups, organizations, clubs, agencies, city departments, and others for meetings, seminars, weddings, parties, and other social events.



Pickering Farm is also the site for the annual Issaquah Farmer's Market, where a variety of vendors sell their goods from April to October. Tibbetts Creek Manor is a favorite wedding site from late spring into fall. There is an on-going need for improvements and repairs to keep these facilities functioning and aesthetically pleasing.

Golf Course

Currently, Issaquah does not have a golf course, or any plans to acquire land to develop a future course. Approximately 100 acres is needed for an 18-hole golf course. Land in Issaquah is at a premium and the focus of park acquisitions has been to expand current parks and recreation facilities. There are nearby golf courses located within 5 to 15 miles of Issaquah.

City/School Interlocal Agreement

About twenty-five years ago, the City and the Issaquah School District verbally entered into an inter-local agreement for use and sharing of school and park facilities. Since that initial agreement, an Interlocal Agreement was signed and an employee hired to oversee scheduling of these facilities. Part of the agreement is that neither agency will charge the other for the use of their facilities for indirect costs, such as: heating, lighting, or maintenance unless a staff person is needed to supervise or assist with the function.

This agreement covers all indoor and outside facilities. The agreement expanded the availability of recreational opportunities and facilities, such as indoor basketball courts and gyms, outdoor sport fields, and grass areas for soccer games and practices.

A current and future problem for the school district is the lack of funds for renovation and improvements of their recreational facilities. Many cities have partnered with school districts to provide improvements to school sites and fields in order to provide public recreational opportunities after school hours. Through use of a variety of funding sources such as: grants, sports groups, or CIP funds, improved or renovated school fields could provide another opportunity to reduce park acreage and facility deficits within the City.

Parks Maintenance/Facilities Shop

In 2003, Parks Maintenance and Facilities Maintenance moved into the former Public Works Operations building and site. This move enabled the two divisions to work out of one location. The interior office space is small and limits office staff expansion; however, shop and storage space increased significantly and can now accommodate equipment, repairs, and projects. The need for a new Parks Maintenance and Building Facilities Facility is still apparent as there is insufficient space for needed expansions and the building is nearing the end of its lifespan. In addition, the site is identified as part of the proposed Issaquah Creek confluence park area (including Toll Anderson, Cybil-Madeline and Issaquah Creek Parks).

Senior Center

In 2003, the renovation of the former King County library into the Issaquah Valley Senior Center was completed. The renovated building provides an excellent facility for senior services and activities.

Parkways/Streetscapes

Issaquah prides itself on the quality and quantity of its parkways and streetscape plantings. As part of new development in the commercial areas, the emphasis has been for increased tree and greenway plantings. Issaquah has been named by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources as a Tree City USA for over 15 years. Only a few other cities in Washington can claim that honor.

As Issaquah grows, it is important to maintain the commitment of requiring extensive streetscape plantings, creation of parkways, and improvements to all areas of the City especially in the downtown area as the City's population and activities increase. The colors of flowering trees and shrubs, makes Issaquah a unique place to live and a favorite place to visit.

Amphitheater

During development of Pickering Place, including the Costco Headquarters commercial buildings, theater complex, restaurants, etc., a small outdoor Amphitheater was built around an interior pond. The amphitheater is currently available for rentals by individuals, groups, or organizations. Rentals are coordinated by the City Parks and Recreation Department.

Although not an actual amphitheater, the outdoor grass area located in front of the Community Center, which is known as the Issaquah Green, functions as an amphitheater and is the setting for the outdoor summer concert program.

Other City Facilities



The Parks and Recreation Department currently oversees maintenance and care of many City facilities including the Police/City Hall Building, City Hall South, City Hall Northwest, Museum, Depot, Senior Center and other city owned buildings. These City facilities and buildings require on going maintenance, repair, and upgrades and are included in the Parks and Recreation Department budget.

Chapter 8

Implementation Plan

8.1 Introduction

This section identifies a recommended action plan for implementing recreational facility needs and issues addressed in the previous chapters of this plan. The implementation plan is based on the analysis of community needs, as well as the inventory of existing facilities and opportunities for new parks or facilities. Combined with Level of Service (LOS) standards, the implementation plan identifies priorities and funding strategies for the development of future parks and recreation facilities for the City of Issaquah. (Chapter 9 and Appendix D includes the Capital Improvement Program.)

In addition, this chapter addresses the implementation of the Parks Plan by identifying short term (the next six years) and long term (the next twenty years) recommendations for capital projects. The previous chapters provide the background and direction for the setting of priorities for the acquisition of sites, renovation of parks and the development of new parks for the City's the park system. In setting priorities, all of the competing needs for parks and park facilities are considered. In the next Chapter, Capital Projects Program, the program provides a suggested yearly work plan for projects identified in the implementation plan.

Between 2004 and 2009, the City has acquired and developed additional park properties; acreage was conveyed to the City through Development Agreements or mitigation measures; or, property was donated or deeded to the City for open space or park and recreational facility development. With the passing of the 2006 Parks and Open Space Bond and seeking matching grant funds, the City acquired additional natural open space; developed or renovated several neighborhood parks; and, installed two synthetic turf fields.

Over the next twenty years, the City of Issaquah's population is projected to increase. It is anticipated that the City's population growth will occur through the completion of the urban housing villages at Talus and the Issaquah Highlands and through redevelopment through out the City. To maintain the level of service for these new residents and business employees, park acreage and the number of recreational facilities should be increased. Additionally, the City could further explore the possibility of partnering with the Issaquah School District to improve their fields and recreational facilities. Conversion of sports fields to synthetic turf in order to increase playing time and field availability is another consideration, where feasible. Other recreational facilities such as trails and non-motorized corridors are highly sought by the public for general health and fitness, and for relieving traffic congestion.

The City of Issaquah is known for the development and maintenance of quality recreation facilities and parks. For the past several years and in light of recent growth, the City of Issaquah has accommodated most recreational needs within the City's existing parks and school facilities. However, to maintain the high standards of excellence, the City must continue to strive to meet community and citizen needs.

The following sub-sections provide an inventory of recommended projects that are organized by Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Trails. New and existing facilities are discussed in each category. In addition, recommended projects are listed as new development, renovation, or acquisition. The recommendations are prioritized to help provide a basis for decision making as opportunities arise. Opportunities will arise within the priority categories at the same or at different times, and those opportunities should be weighed

against available resources. Therefore, given that there are outside influences that may affect the priority list, the list has to be flexible. Acquisitions may require all available resources thus deferring development, or in another scenario, a mixture of acquisition, renovation, and new development projects may be more appropriate.

Parks

Central Park – Pad #3 Synthetic Turf Field Development.

In 2001, the City signed a Parks Agreement with Port Blakely Communities. The Agreement included the provision of park land, the grading of existing City parcels, and for the development of approximately 60 acres of new parks located within the Issaquah Highlands. Since signing of the Parks Agreement, the City has constructed Central Park, Black Nugget Park and Grand View Park. Each park includes a variety of recreational amenities as outlined in Chapter 3 – Inventory of City Parks and Natural Open Spaces. In fall 2009, the City constructed two synthetic turf fields at Central Park – Pad #3. The synthetic turf fields will greatly improve field availability for multiple sport activities (i.e., soccer, lacrosse, and football).

Issaquah Creek Confluence Area: Tollö Anderson, Cybil-Madeline and Issaquah Creek Parks.

With implementation of the people's mandate in the 2006 Park Bond, the City acquired two properties within the Issaquah Creek confluence area, including Tollö Anderson Park and adding additional property to Cybil-Madeline Park. The 2006 Park Bond also included funds for a Master Site Plan and development of Phase 1 of the park area. It is anticipated that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for development of a Master Site Plan will be released in early winter 2010.

Tibbetts Valley Park (TVP) - New Amenities and Renovation

Tibbetts Valley Park (TVP) is a 30-acre community park located in the southwest part of the City. Development of this park began in the 1980's and consists of sport fields, tennis courts, basketball court; children's play structure, picnic area, restroom/concession building and parking areas. Two of the sport fields are lighted for evening and night play. Development of this park has been completed in phases as funds have become available from grants, CIPs, or other sources.

A sample of park amenities still planned for future projects in TVP are:

- ♦ Second restroom building located adjacent to the tennis courts.
- ♦ Second play area between the tennis courts and baseball field #5.
- ♦ Larger group picnic area near Tibbetts Creek and the tennis courts.
- ♦ Infields need additional soil mix and re-crowning to improve drainage.
- ♦ Fields need aerating, fertilizing, and top-dressing.
- ♦ Additional tree plantings.
- ♦ Drainage improvements.

Gibson Park - New Amenities and Renovation

This neighborhood park located across from the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery has a nice picnic shelter and a small children's play structure. Adjacent to the park is Gibson Hall, a community rental facility and Kiwanis meeting place. A long term project for Gibson Park would be renovating the children's play area and adding a half basketball court.

Hillside Park - New Amenities and Renovation

This existing twenty acre open space park located between the "old" and "new" cemeteries in the Squak Mountain Neighborhood has a small two acre grass area for non-organized sports. This two acre grass area is slated for renovation as part of the Public Works – Engineering (PWE) 480 zone reservoir project. To reduce the costs for hauling soil from the area, PWE proposed using the grass area to spread the soil over the two acres, raising the grass area elevation about two feet.

Even with the improvement made to the park as part of the PWE project, Hillside Park is in need of a major overhaul. There is no play equipment, picnic areas, etc., which would result in more people frequenting the park.

Depending on the timing of the 480 Reservoir project, a goal is to complete a Master Site Plan for Hillside Park which would work with the timing of the grading project. Park needs:

- ♦ Children's Play Structure/Area.
- ♦ Picnic Area.
- ♦ Accessible pathway from the neighborhoods.
- ♦ New grass and irrigation system for play/sports field.
- ♦ Tree/shrub pruning to improve visibility into the park

Community Facilities

Tibbetts Creek Manor and Barn - Renovation

The Manor is a favorite rental facility for weddings, seminars, social events, meetings, etc. The natural creek setting and beautiful landscaped grounds make this a prime location for such events. To keep this rental facility in good condition and desirable to customers, the Manor and Barn continue to need on-going repairs and upgrades.

Issaquah Community Center - Expanded Facilities and Renovation

The Community Center is located two blocks south of City Hall/Police Station. This multi-purpose building has a youth center, administration offices, meeting rooms, exercise areas, walking/jogging track, and courts for multiple types of sports or games. The center is also another favorite rental facility for large functions, as it holds well over 2000 people. The lawn area, or Community Center Green, located in the front of the center is the focal point in the summer for the Concerts on the Green program. The Community Center is heavily used by residents and non-residents for its park programs and rentals. Expansion of the Community Center is priority long term goal. The current use and increased population demonstrates the need for expansion of the current Community Center or building a second Community Center on the north side of the freeway. Continued growth in the City and neighboring communities is affecting programming of events, activities and space at the center. The proposed expansion would:

- ♦ Provide a separate space for the exercise and weight equipment with a separate entrance. This would allow the weight room to remain open during rental of the center.
- ♦ Increase the number of rooms for additional classes, parties, or rental spaces.
- ♦ Extra rooms would reserve court space for recreation sport programs, like basketball and volleyball.

Moreover, the lawn area that comprises the Issaquah Community Center Green should be renovated due to poor drainage.

Aquatic Facility – Julius Boehm Pool

The Julius Boehm Pool, built in the 1972, is an indoor aquatic facility, which consists of a six lane lap pool with bulkhead, diving board, locker rooms, upstairs bleacher area, offices, etc. Due to the popularity of the City's recreational swim programs and services, this facility is over-scheduled for classes, programs, swim clubs, school programs, etc. The facility has reached its expected life-span and is in need of major renovation. In 2008, CIP funds were allocated for the preparation of an Aquatic Feasibility Study. The study looked at various alternatives from completely renovating the Boehm Pool to constructing a new Aquatic Facility. The Issaquah City Council is reviewing the study and its recommendations.

The Long Term Goal for the City is to add a new Aquatic Center to meet community demands for a swimming and play oriented pool center. With a play oriented pool center, such a facility would focus on family events and activities. The center should also include a lap pool and dive tank for to help meet the demand of the local swim teams and clubs.

Pickering Farm

The farm consists of the Pickering Barn, which is a community facility that is available for rentals by the community, non-profits, and businesses, for weddings, parties, meetings, shows, or other similar activities; outdoor gazebo and courtyard; Carriage House; and, open lawn area. The farm also serves as the location for the Issaquah Farmers Market every Saturday from April to October. With a 145 space parking lot and shared Costco employee parking, the Farm can offer facilities to large groups. A Master Site Plan was developed and approved by the Park Board in 2002.

The Master Site Plan includes improvements to the Farm to enhance and improve the aesthetic and functional qualities of the facility. Those proposed improvements include:

- ♦ Creation of group picnic area and stage with shelters, barbecues, tables, restrooms, etc. in the open lawn and grove of tree area east of the parking lot.
- ♦ A children's play structure/area.
- ♦ Renovation of the Carriage House building from a storage facility to a building for community programs or rental space.

Parks Maintenance and Building Facilities

The move of Parks Maintenance and Building Facilities into one site located at the confluence of the east fork and main stem Issaquah Creek has improved the Parks and Recreation Department by having both divisions work from one location. It has also provided more work and storage space for equipment. However, it has insufficient office space for staff. In addition, the age and overall condition of the building will require continual maintenance and repair funds as part of the City's budget. As the number of facilities and parks and open space continue to increase, these two Divisions will require additional space and facilities to house equipment and office space. A new larger facility will be needed or should be included as Phase 2 of the Public Works Operations shop site.

Insert: Non-motorized transportation/trails map

Trails

The Comprehensive Plan – Non-motorized Transportation Element addresses the development of a non-motorized transportation system for the City. The Recreation Trail system overlaps components of the Non-motorized Trail System, but also includes those trails located or proposed within the natural open space areas.

The intra-city trails are the basis for the creation of a pedestrian-oriented community where walking and riding bicycles are safe and convenient methods for recreational travel throughout the city. The City's integrated trail system provides cross-city trail corridors including the Rainier Multiple Use Trail, Maple–Juniper Multiple Use Trail, Sammamish Multiple Use Trail, and the Pickering Trail. These trails also link with the King County Regional Trail System, including the Issaquah – High Point Trail and the East Lake Sammamish Trail.

In addition to these multiple-use trail corridors, the City provides pedestrian walkways, sidewalks or neighborhood trails in the City's business districts and in the planned developments, such as the Issaquah Highlands and Talus Developments. These walkways and sidewalks provide connections between neighborhoods, schools, commercial districts, and other activity nodes.

Pedestrian or hiking trails are located within the City's natural open space areas, including the Tradition Plateau/West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). These paths are generally developed for walkers, hikers, and runners, although a few of the trails accommodate bicyclists. Additionally, these trails lead to or connect with the larger natural open space areas contained within the "Issaquah Alps."

To further encourage recreational and non-motorized transportation use within the City and to facilitate the viewing of the City's natural resources, it is important to provide recreational trail opportunities within new and existing parks and along the Issaquah Creek corridor. Through analysis of the public opinion surveys and comments, the development of an "Issaquah Creek Trail" that provides opportunities for viewing of the creek's aquatic and riparian resources is a high priority.

Future Trail Projects:

- ♦ Through connections to the City's existing multiple-use trail system (filling in the missing links);
- ♦ "Issaquah Creek Trail" paralleling the creek, where feasible, and installation of viewing platforms and interpretive signs;
- ♦ Precipice Trail Connector between the Talus Development, Newport Way and Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park;
- ♦ Bear Ridge Trail Trailhead, located on SR 900/Renton-Issaquah Road. Provide a small parking area and access to Bear Ridge Trail and Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park;
- ♦ Talus Mine Interpretive Trail, provision of an interpretive trail to a former coal mine located within the Talus Native Growth Protection Area (NGPA);
- ♦ Improvements to existing, but undeveloped trailhead parking sites, including East Sunset Way, Issaquah High School/Second Avenue, Mountainside Drive, and other potential sites to improve city resident access to the surrounding "Issaquah Alps."

Acquisition - Future Park Development

Acquisition

To continue to offer consistent park services to all residential areas of Issaquah, acquisition of additional park acreage for active recreation has been identified as an important need as the City's population and demand grows. In addition to the acquisition of land for active recreation, there is a need to acquire land for new neighborhood parks, purchase parcels adjacent to other properties already owned by the City to complete a park area, and continue to pursue protection of natural open spaces in and around Issaquah.

There are a couple of issues to overcome for acquiring additional acreage for active recreational use: 1) the lack of available suitable level sites and 2) funds. With this knowledge of the needs and limitations, the following are recommendations for acquisition of properties to provide for parks and recreation facilities and opportunities in the future:

- ♦ Expand existing parks or future parks.
- ♦ Acquire properties for neighborhood parks for neighborhoods with insufficient park space.
- ♦ Investigate acquisition of commercial properties when the property becomes vacant and the site could be a viable recreation facility.

Future Park Development

Because acquisition funding is limited and property costs are high, the City should look at other avenues to increase park and recreation opportunities. Additional partnerships and Interagency Agreements, as outlined below, with local and state agencies could also help to provide needed recreational facilities and opportunities for the community. Also, when new larger developments are being planned, neighborhood parks should be included with the development plans to meet the new resident's recreational needs.

- ♦ Consider partnership with state or local agencies for shared use facilities for active recreation and/or sports fields. For example, an Interlocal Agreement with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for the provision of recreational opportunities (i.e., interpretative signage along trails and other environmental education programs) and facilities (i.e., athletic fields for soccer, baseball, softball) at Lake Sammamish State Park.
- ♦ Consider partnership with the Issaquah School District for renovation of outdoor field and play areas for shared use as neighborhood parks and sports fields. For example, the City has partnered and entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Issaquah School District (see Appendix C) in order to use the District's recreational facilities (i.e., athletic fields and gyms) for City recreational programs and activities.
- ♦ Consider partnership with King County for use of neighborhood/community parks or active sports fields, such as Preston Athletic Fields.

Implementation/Capital Improvement Program

These goals are subject to further review, analysis, and prioritization in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process (Chapter 9 – Appendix D). It should also be noted that with the provision of new capital projects, park and recreation staffing levels should be increased in order to ensure proper maintenance of the facilities.

Chapter 9

Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program

9.1 Introduction

The City's capital and facility needs are funded through the City's established Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP is a six-year financing plan evaluated every year by the City Council. The CIP identifies projects, prioritizes the timing, and specifies funding sources. This plan is a major funding program for park related facilities including acquisition, development, and renovation or maintenance. (See Appendix D – 2009 Capital Improvement Projects for the Years 2010 – 2105.)

Given the 2008-09 downturn in the economy for the state and the nation, the City is deferring many of its CIP projects and only funding those projects that are associated with public safety and health. Despite the poor economy, the Parks and Recreation Dept. is identifying its capital needs in order to serve city resident's recreational needs.

In the previous chapters we identified needs and specific projects. This chapter identifies types of funding, some associated and estimated costs for each project, and short or long term timing for parks and recreation facility improvements.

Some of the funding sources for improvement projects, which have been or are being used to implement the Parks Plan are:

9.2 Bond Issues

General Obligation Bonds (G.O. Bonds)

These bonds can be generated by either the City or the County and can be used for acquisition or development. Voter approved G.O. Bonds are typically repaid through an annual "excess" property tax levy authorized for this purpose by state statute through the maturity period of the bonds. Broad consensus support is needed for passage, as a 60 percent "yes" vote is required.

Councilmanic Bonds

These G.O. Bonds are issued by the City or County Councils and are issued without voter approval. Under State law, repayment of these bonds must be financed from general City revenues since no additional property taxes can be levied to support related debt service payments.

Conservation Futures Tax Levy (CFT)

This fund represents a regular county-wide funding source available and is used exclusively for acquisition of open space. King County has levied the full authorization of the CFT since 1987. The City has benefited from this funding source and used these grant funds for the acquisition properties located along the east fork and main stem Issaquah Creek, including Cybil-Madeline, Issaquah Creek, Tollä Anderson, Corra Parks and the South Issaquah Creek Greenway.

9.3 Grants – Public and Private

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grant Program

The Recreation and Conservation Office administers grant funds from federal and state sources that are distributed to local, state, and federal agencies in the form of grants. Eligible sponsors submit grant applications to fund outdoor recreation and conservation projects. The amount of money available for grants statewide varies from year to year and many of these funding sources require that monies be used for specific types of projects. Grants are awarded to state and local agencies on a highly competitive basis. Local agencies must be able to provide matching funds.

Donations

As traditional funding sources become scarce, it is incumbent upon the City to search for creative and dynamic methods of financing projects identified in the Parks Plan. These can include donations, endowment funds, volunteer support and partnerships with community businesses, organizations and residents.

Park Impact Fees

As determined in the Comprehensive Plan, impact fees have been determined by the Rate Study/Level of Service (LOS)- Appendix A and are charged to new residential developments as part of the permit review process.

Levy

A levy is another funding source for financing capital improvements. Unlike a bond issue, validation is not needed and a “yes” vote of 50 percent plus one vote is all that is required to pass the levy. Property taxes are raised by a set amount (based on assessed valuation) for up to nine years. The proceeds may be received on an annual, pay-as-you-go basis, or a councilmanic bond(s) may be issued against the levy amount in order to receive the proceeds all at once.

Other Funding Sources

As funding is limited for acquisition and development of park and recreational facilities other grant sources, new tax sources and/or revenues will need to be identified in order to fully implement the short and long term goals of this plan. Projects are further evaluated in the City's yearly CIP process. Additionally, maintenance and operation costs are not included in the information shown below, only the estimated cost for development. Maintenance and operation costs are considered both in the CIP (for larger scale maintenance costs) and during the City's budget process.

9.4 Short and Long Term Park Goals (2010 – 2025)

Despite the 2008-09 downturn in the economy, the City sees the importance for providing recreational facilities for the health and fitness of its residents. Another result of the economy is the “staycation,” which means people are staying close to home for their vacations and utilizing local park facilities for their recreational activities. In order to meet this need, it is appropriate to look to the future development of park areas and recreational facilities.

Short and Long Term Park Goals (2010-2025)

♦ Confluence Park Area: Tollë Anderson, Cybil-Madeline and Issaquah Creek Parks Master Site Plan/Phase 1 Development	\$ 986,000
♦ Confluence Park Area: Tollë Anderson, Cybil-Madeline and Issaquah Creek Parks Phase 2 Development	\$2,500,000
♦ Harvey Manning Park at Talus – Phase 2	\$ 100,000
♦ Central Park – Pad #2 Drainage	\$ 60,000
♦ New Skate Park	\$ 350,000
♦ Precipice Trail Acquisition	\$ 625,000
♦ Water Spray Park Design/Construction	\$ 125,000
♦ Grand View Park Landscaping	\$ 50,000
♦ Issaquah Creek WaterWays Stewardship	\$ 50,000/year
♦ Tradition Lake Restoration	\$ 250,000
♦ Natural Open Space Acquisitions	\$ 500,000/year
♦ Neighborhood Park Acquisitions	\$ 500,000/year
♦ Pickering Farm Park Development	\$ 700,000
♦ Tibbetts Valley Park - Second Restroom/Children's Play Area near Tennis Courts	\$ 200,000
♦ New Aquatic Center	\$35 million
♦ Swamp Trail Boardwalk – Phase 2	\$ 150,000
♦ Community Center Green Renovation	\$ 25,000
♦ Tibbetts Valley Park Drainage	\$ 300,000
♦ Tibbetts Valley Park Tennis Court Lighting	\$ 100,000
♦ Central Park Tennis Court Lighting	\$ 100,000
♦ Bear Ridge Trailhead Design/Construction	\$ 450,000
♦ Tibbetts Valley Park Picnic Facility	\$ 150,000
♦ Tibbetts Valley Park Infield/Outfield renovations	\$ 200,000
♦ Timberlake Park Non-motorized Boat Water Access	\$ 250,000
♦ Gibson Park Half Court Basketball.	\$ 50,000
♦ Hillside Park Improvements.	\$ 400,000
♦ Meerwood Park Improvements	\$ 200,000
♦ Issaquah Community Center Expansion	\$2,500,000
♦ Second New Community Center (for expanded population).	\$15 million
♦ Julius Boehm Aquatic Center Renovations	\$21 million
♦ Pickering Farm Carriage House Renovation	\$ 500,000
♦ Tibbetts Creek Manor/Barn Renovation	\$ 200,000
♦ New Park Maintenance and Facility Shop	\$6 - 8 million
♦ Issaquah Creek Trail, acquisition, design and development.	\$10 - 15 million
♦ Monitor availability of properties adjacent to parks and open space owned by the City for future park developments and expansion, and sites that are in areas lacking park facilities – Estimated cost not included.	

The total cost to implement these short and long term park goals is about \$80 - \$100 million, depending on land costs.

9.5 Funding

This plan provides recommendations, for both funded and unfunded improvement projects for the short term. The plan also identifies the need for an estimated \$80 to \$100 million in order to implement and construct the identified Short and Long Term projects. These cost estimates are preliminary and are based on current dollars and past experience.

In order to implement the recommendations set forth in this section of the Park Plan, additional funding mechanisms or solutions are needed to augment CIP dollars. While it is important to move forward with development of new parks and recreational facilities, funding the on-going maintenance and operation of these facilities must be determined prior to carrying out the improvement projects.

Funding Priorities

1. Development of park and recreational facilities that are funded by the 2006 Parks Bond and City Council.

- a. Issaquah Creek Confluence Park Area: Tollè Anderson, Cybil-Madeline and the Issaquah Creek Parks.

2. Renovation and Repair of Existing Park and Facilities.

The City of Issaquah has many valuable and well used park and recreational facilities including Tibbetts Valley Park, Central Park, the Community Center, and Julius Boehm Pool. Due to their popularity, constant maintenance and repair is necessary to maintain the parks and facilities at a level to ensure public safety and to meet the level of service demanded by the public.

Expansion or a new community center will cost millions of dollars; however, recreational facility needs increase annually. The Julius Boehm Pool is also reaching the end of its lifespan. User needs are greater than the available pool space. In response to user needs and demand as expressed through the Aquatic Feasibility Study, a new state of the art Aquatic Center is warranted.

3. Park Acquisition.

As identified in the Needs Assessment, the City's deficit of park acreage will continue to increase as the population of Issaquah grows. The amount of available acreage for park development is decreasing as new residential developments are built and new commercial areas arise. Additionally, as city areas redevelop with higher intensity commercial and residential development, more park space will be needed to accommodate the higher demand for park space. Because of the lack of available land to accommodate active recreational use, priority should be given to acquiring land that can be used to develop active recreational facilities.

Funding of property acquisition is recommended where opportunity exists in order to form park areas of three acres and larger. Additionally, when developments are being planned and reviewed, it would be appropriate to include the development of neighborhood and community parks as part of the development in order to meet the new resident's recreational needs. The type of recreational facilities should meet the character of the residential development. For example, if it is a family residential development, a neighborhood park with a children's play structure and sports field may be appropriate.

Funds should be identified and set aside annually for acquisition of property as sites and potential large blocks of parcels suitable for parkland become available.

4. Trails and Natural Open Space.

The City of Issaquah values its natural open space and recreational trails. By working in partnership with local and state agencies, Issaquah was able to acquire and protect over 1,311 acres of natural open space. In addition, through agency partnerships, the City enjoys a back-drop of approx. 25,500 acres of open space – known as the “Issaquah Alps” (Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Taylor Mountains and Grand Ridge.) Within these areas, many miles of trails have been developed and are available to residents and non-residents. The City must continue to prioritize funds to maintain and continue protection of natural open space.

Funding Recommendations

In 2008, the City of Issaquah adopted a Level of Service (LOS) standard of \$4,336.82 per person for calculation of projected Parks capital expenditures. The short and long term park LOS needs identify the need for millions of dollars to maintain the City's Level of Service for future park and recreational facilities. Moreover, as the City considers future annexations, the increased population will add to the City's park and recreation facilities deficit.

The City has allocated funds through the 2006 Park Bond and park impact fees to develop the synthetic turf fields and prepare a Master Site Plan for Cybil-Madeline and the other park lands located at the confluence of the east fork and main stem of Issaquah Creek. With a continual influx of park impact fees, other minor renovation and improvements can be completed at the City's existing facilities. In order for the City to meet the future needs city residents plus increased park use by non-residents, the City should identify other funding sources to provide the much desired and needed parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces. Grants, donations, and other funds usually meet the City's short-term goals for development of smaller recreational facility projects. To tackle the long-term and larger goals such as: community centers, aquatic centers, and major land acquisitions, the City will be required to consider a long term financing plan. These could include bonds, levies, or utility tax as outlined previously.

In summary, the City of Issaquah has the unique opportunity to set a level of service standard for parks, recreation, and open space for the future. This plan has identified the needs, requirements and desires through community interaction, studies, and research. The users, residents, businesses owners, employers, and employees who work or play in Issaquah, live and work here due to the quality of life the City offers, which in large part includes the City's parks, open space, recreational opportunities and facilities. It will take time and effort to find the means to provide the recreational opportunities and facilities identified in this Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan.

Definitions:

Agency Acronyms:

ACOE: Army Corps of Engineers. Federal agency affiliated with the Army for engineering and construction projects, especially public works projects within the nation's waterways.

Ecology or WDOE: Washington State Dept. of Ecology. Ecology, a state agency, is involved in protection of the state's water and other natural resources.

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency. Federal agency to protect the nation's resources and to decrease levels of water and air pollution.

RCO: Recreation and Conservation Office. State agency that provides recreation and resource funding, technical assistance, research and policy coordination, advocacy, and encourages long-term stewardship.

KC: King County (see definition below).

KC DNR & Parks: King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks. County land management agency for county owned parks, recreational facilities, and open space and forestlands.

WDFW: Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. State manager and steward of the State's fish and wildlife.

WDNR: Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources. Public land manager for state-owned forest, aquatic, agricultural, range and urban lands.

State Parks: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Public land manager for state owned parks and recreational facilities.

USFS: United States Forest Service. Public land manager of national forest lands.

Other Acronyms and Definitions:

IATC: Issaquah Alps Trails Club.

ISC: Issaquah Soccer Club.

ISTEA/TEA21: Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act/Transportation Efficiency Act. These grant-funding programs are available for the acquisition and development of non-motorized transportation projects or transportation related historic facilities.

"Issaquah Alps": Informal name for Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Taylor Mountains and Grand Ridge. These mountains and local and state owned lands provide the backdrop and surround the City of Issaquah.

CIP: Capital Improvement Program.

CFT: Conservation Futures Tax Levy. This program is a county program for the acquisition of natural open space areas.

Cultural Resources: Evidence of human occupation or activity that is important in the history, architecture, archaeology, or culture of a community or region. Cultural resources include, but are not limited to the following:

- Archaeological resources.

- Historical buildings and structures (at least 50 years old).
- Traditional cultural properties: locations, buildings, structures, and objects that are associated with cultural beliefs, customs, or practices of any living community that are rooted in that community's history and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

GMA: Growth Management Act. State provision to guide development within the state the Comprehensive Planning process.

HCA: Habitat Conservation Account. (See Chapter 5.)

Historical Resources: Encompasses the culture of a community or region during historical times (written record).

ICC: Issaquah Community Center.

LOS: Level of Service.

MTSG Trust: Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the I-90 corridor from the Seattle Waterfront to Thorp.

MTSG: Mountains to Sound Greenway is the geographic area that follows the I-90 corridor from the Seattle Waterfront, on the west, to Thorp, on the east, and the mountainous ridges to the north and south of the freeway.

NGPE or NGPA: Native Growth Protection Easement or Native Growth Protection Area. These protected areas can either be owned by the City, such as the open space areas located within the Foothills neighborhood, or these areas can be owned by the neighborhood Homeowner's Association, such as the Montreux Neighborhood.

NRCA: Natural Resources Conservation Area.

PAA: Potential Annexation Area. These are areas that are being considered for inclusion with the City.

SRFB: Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

TIP: Transportation Improvement Project.

TVP: Tibbetts Valley Park.

WWRP: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Grant program administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office.

Appendices

